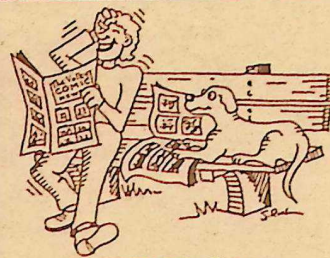


The Valley COMIC N · E · W · S



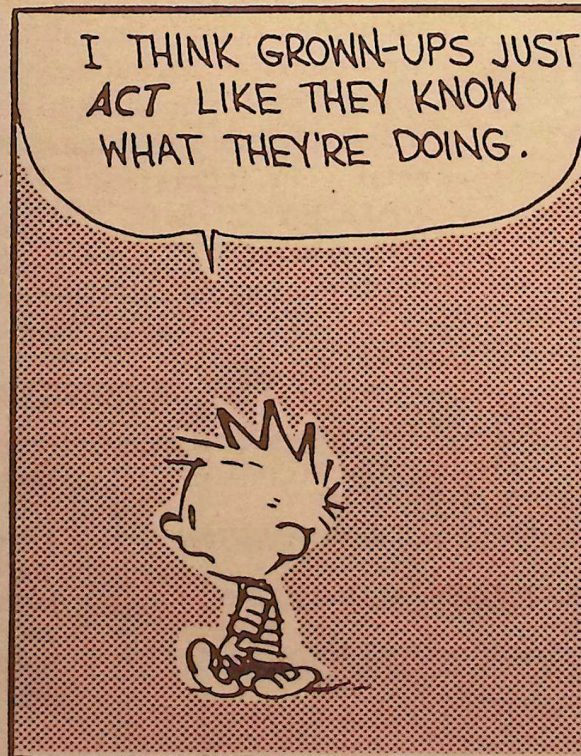
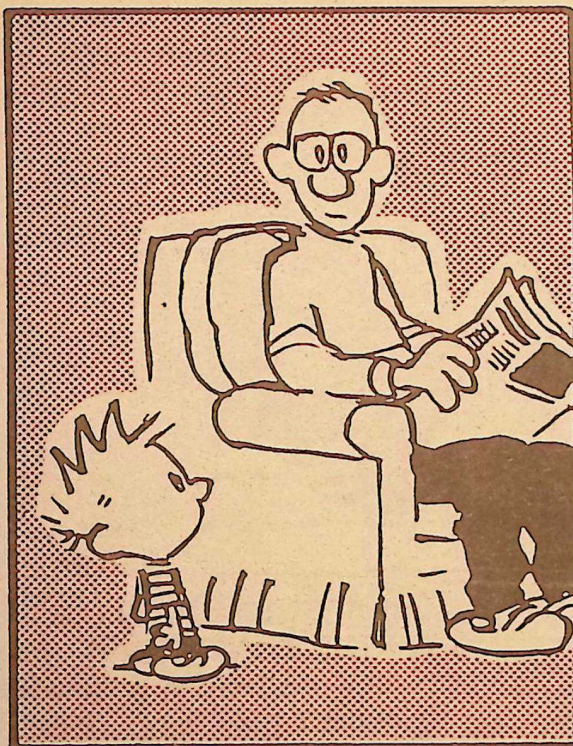
ISSUE #33
February 21, 1991

FEATURES:

THE FAR SIDE
CALVIN & HOBBS
DOONESBURY
VIEWS OF THE WORLD
EARTHWEEK
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT
THE BRASS & FERN
JOE BOB BRIGGS

STORIES:

IN HARMS WAY
FRONT LIES
\$\$\$\$\$\$\$?
POTPOURRI
SUB DRIVE
DANIEL ELLSBERG
INTERVIEW
SURVEY RESULTS
AND WINNERS



SUBSCRIPTION
DRIVE
&
PRIZE
GIVE-AWAY

FIFTEEN
COMMUNITY
BUSINESSES
DONATED OVER
\$1000
IN PRIZES
SEE PAGE 9

DANIEL ELLSBERG INTERVIEW PAGE 16

☆☆☆☆ THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN ... ☆☆☆☆

Thank you for the magnificent reaction to our first reader's survey. Over 350 readers responded, and virtually *all* of you were enthusiastic in your support.

As far as what we culled from the raw data of your answers, we have to report some rather intriguing and alarming statistics. For instance, to the question "Have danced with the devil in the pale moon light?" merely 47% of the men said "Yes," while women owned up to this particular passion at a stunning 55%!

Thank you for the notes regarding the little typographical errors in the survey, such as the fact that 1 million pennies is indeed equal to a mere \$10,000 rather than the \$100,000 that was supposedly intended, or that "Peace Rallies"

was misspelled. While these may seem like "gaffs", they are instead a well orchestrated plan on our part to determine the awareness, intelligence and discernment of our reading public.

As far as new features are concerned, this is something we are working on even as we speak. Some, like LIFE IN HELL, are not available to us, due to the exclusivity obtained by another publication. Others, like

OUTLAND, may not be in a format we can use. Still others are just plain stupid. How-

ever, a great deal of your suggestions are within our grasp, and will be pursued. Money is a problem, but if you send in a subscription as part of our

or not your wish your name to be withheld. Likewise, people have asked for a local cartoon section. If we happen someday to start receiving quality cartoons, we will print them. Take this as a challenge if you will, but our hope is to print some each week, *at no cost to you!* If you want to be in print, send your stuff

COMMENTS

"I'm an addict. If I move I will have to join Comic News Anonymous, or subscribe."
"You folks are the best publication in the valley."

to us. Again, what is printed is completely dependent on quality; ar-

tistic and/or satirical. Send to: LOCAL COLOR at the same address. Originals will not be mailed back, so send high grade xeroxes.

Your support has been gratifying, your comments heartening, and your place in our hearts assured. The thing we hear most often is that we are a valuable and unique asset to The Valley. Our Credo is "Give It To Them!," and with luck we will continue giving it to them for eons to come. Thank you again.

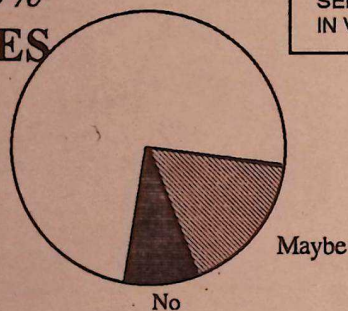
COMMENTS

"It's terrific to get a comic viewpoint for a change!
It's just as accurate, and a hell of a lot more entertaining!!!"
"I feel empty if I've missed an issue."
"4 Stars ☆☆☆☆"

Some Of Your Comments

"It's great - Thanks! Wonderful family entertainment!"
"It makes my whole damn week."
"With all the depressing news, it's nice to laugh."

75%
YES



HAVE YOU BOUGHT ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN ADVERTISED IN VCN?

COMMENTS

"On a scale of one to five, a five. People love it, read it, wait for the new issue with baited breath."
"Great! This is my idea of a newspaper."
"Where have you been all my life?"
"My kids love the paper."
"For those of us who don't take the time to read an entire newspaper, it's a service."

great SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE AND PRIZE GIVEAWAY (See page 9), that will go a long way towards solving that ticklish situation.

Many of you have suggested that we include a Letters to the Editor section. Well, we would love to, but do you write, do you call? No! If you wish to have your comments included in such a feature, please send your letters to: LETTERS, THE VALLEY COMIC NEWS, P.O. BOX 658, AMHERST, MA 01004. Please include your name and phone #, and whether

AND THE WINNERS ARE....

\$30 ROOFTOP HOT TUB FOR TWO	PETER KOSTEK, FLORENCE
EAST HEAVEN HOT TUBS	
\$30 GIFT CERTIFICATE	TONI B. HOCHSTADT, NORTHAMPTON
FACES	
BURRITOS FOR TWO	NICHOLAS JONES, WILLIAMSBURG
LA VERACRUZANA	
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SUBWAY (NORTHAMPTON)	

DINNER FOR TWO	ADELE WEITZ, EASTHAMPTON
THE BREWERY	
\$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE	KAREN STEVENS, AMHERST
BICYCLE WORLD TOO	
LUNCH FOR TWO	KATHY ALEXANDER, NORTHAMPTON
TACO VILLA (NORTHAMPTON & AMHERST)	
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THE VALLEY COMIC NEWS	HEATHER McCONVILLE, AMHERST
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It seems no matter how many times we explain it people still ask
"Why should I buy a subscription to a free publication"? So we will
continue to beat the subject into the ground until the question doesn't
come up any more and our mailing list is long. Subscription are for your
family and friends out side the area whom you know need all the comic relief
they can get. Of course you can buy one for yourself locally if that is your
desire, we can mail it anywhere in the U.S. The only hitch is it takes two to
three weeks to get there.

This issue has in it an interview with Daniel Ellsberg. Although the interview
was done two years ago you will see it is still very timely. He is a man who
has seen much of the corruption that exists within our government first hand
and has literally risked his life to expose it. The interview was done by a
brother publication called The Santa Cruz Comic News and we thank them
for sharing it.

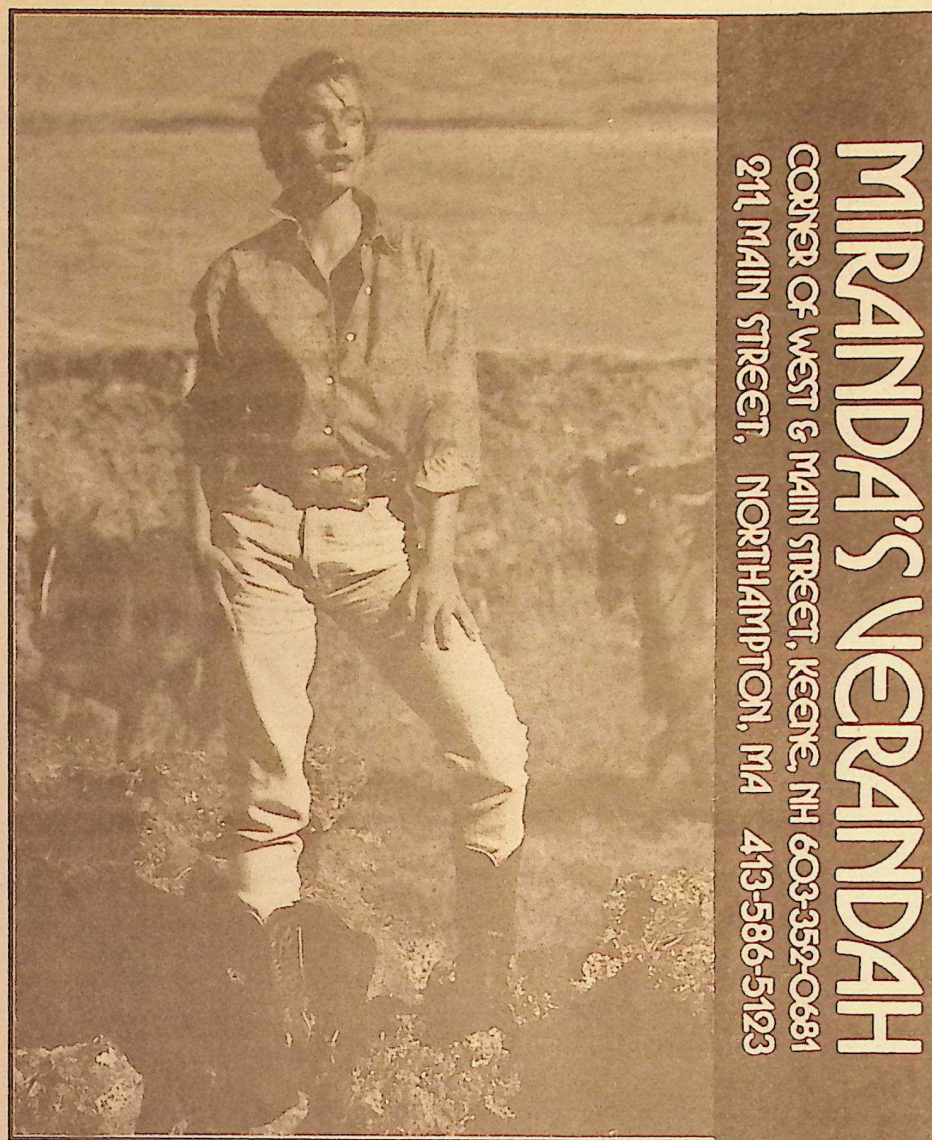
Its a fact that you can't make everybody happy all the time. If it were my
intension to make everybody happy I'd be selling ice cream not publishing a
politically based paper using cartoons a medium. The cover of our last issue
has made some waves in the expectations of our readers. As Editor I
decided to use it because it makes a statement (*That Saddam Hussien and
the Iraqi people are getting screwed by this war and the policies of the U.S.
and our allies*). Nothing more nothing less. If that is what you read into it
than it was effective. If it was interpreted in any other way that insulted or
upset you then I apologize. It was entirely unintentional.

DAVID HOOKS

413-586-2274

Editor and Publisher • David Hooks
Queen Bee • Michele Goodwin
Associate Publisher • Phil Kilbourne
Ad sales • David Hooks, Phil Kilbourne & Lee Ann Novak
Copying • Paradise Copies
Writing & humor consulting • Izzy Gesell
Printing • The Recorder - Greenfield, MA.
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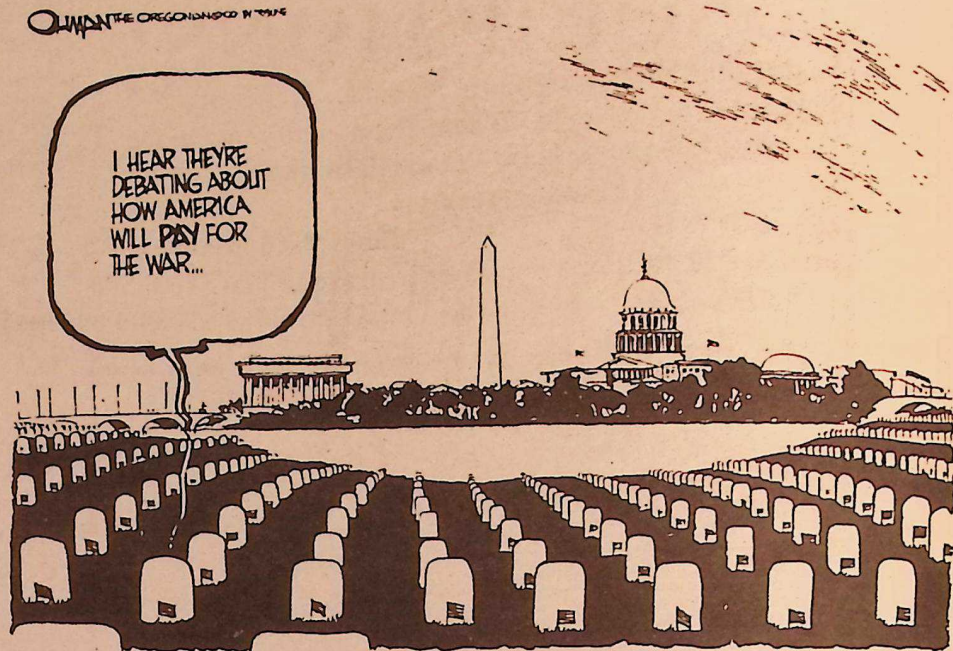
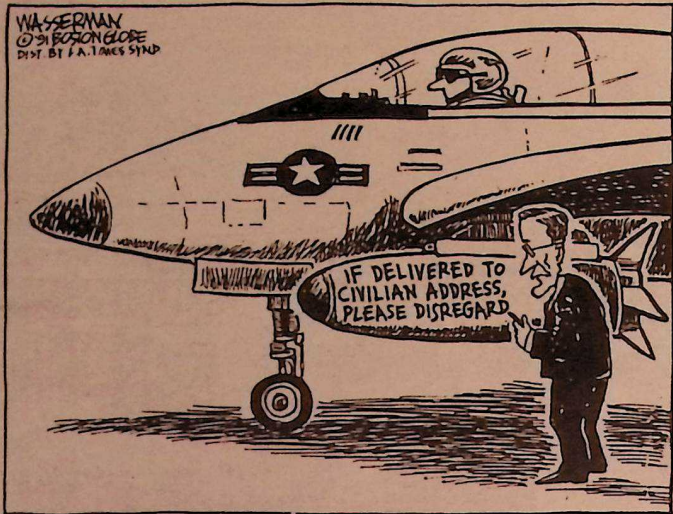
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THE RIGHT LOOK THE RIGHT PRICE



Main Street Northampton

IN HARMS WAY



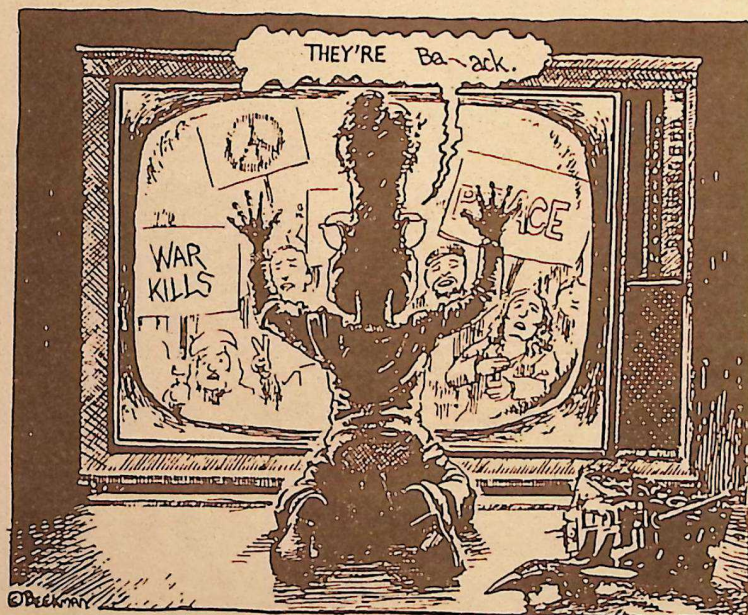
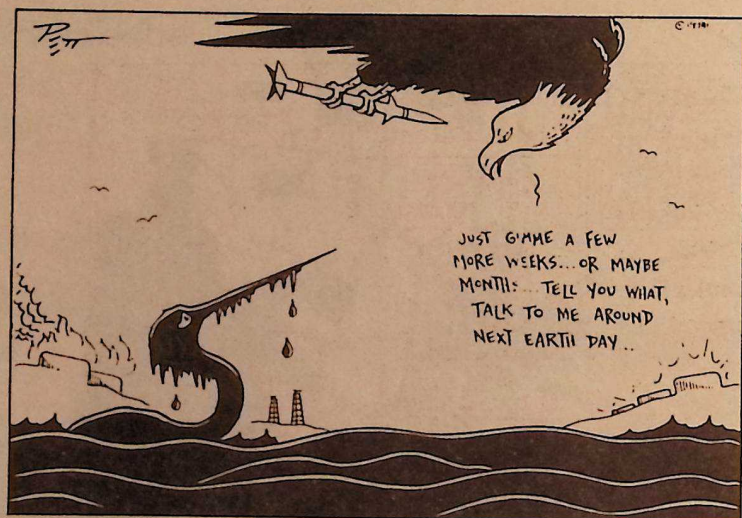
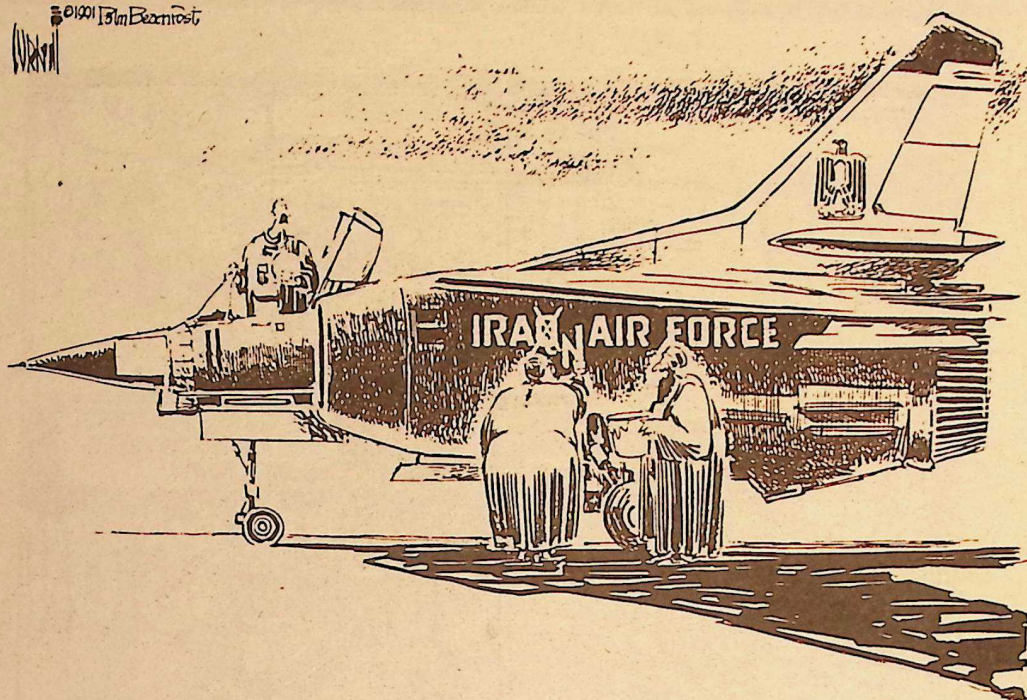
IT BECAME NECESSARY TO DESTROY THE COUNTRY TO SAVE
IT SO THAT WE CAN REBUILD IT.





FRIENDLY FIRE

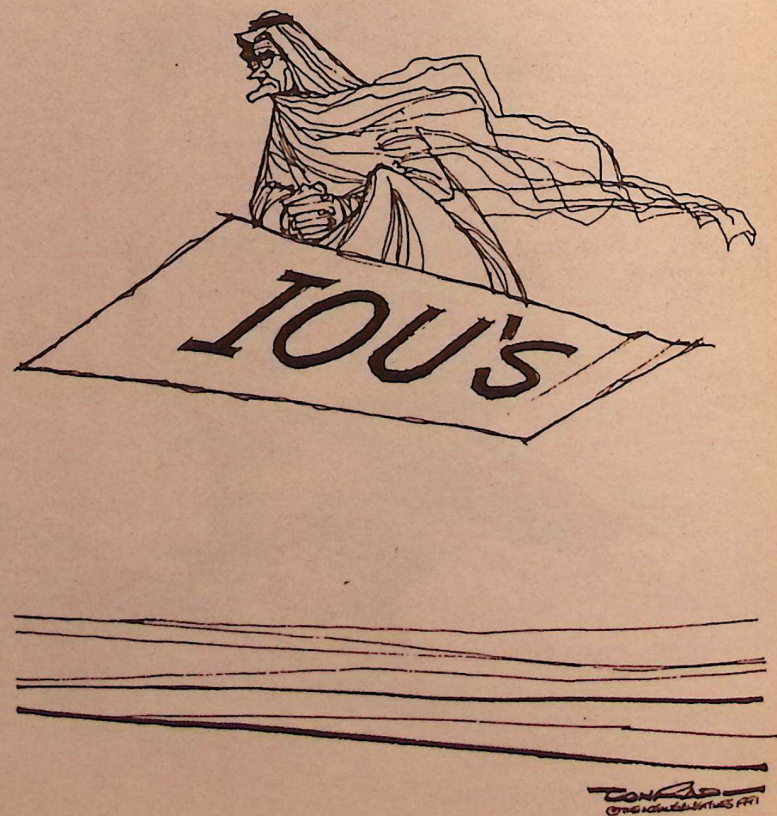
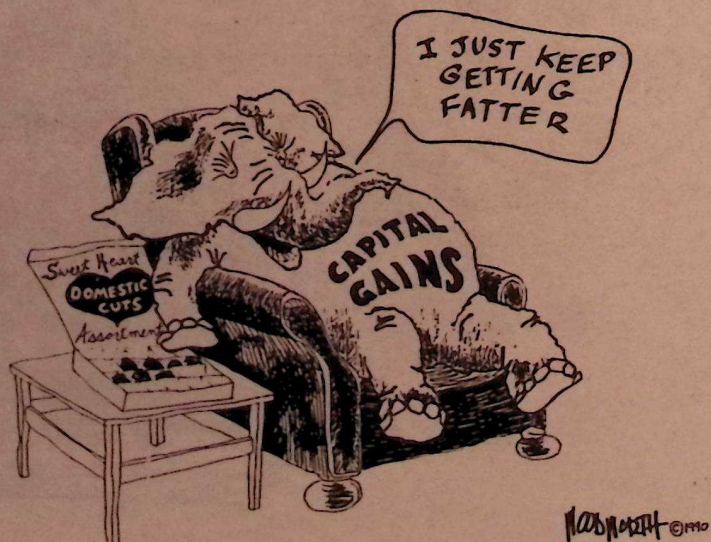
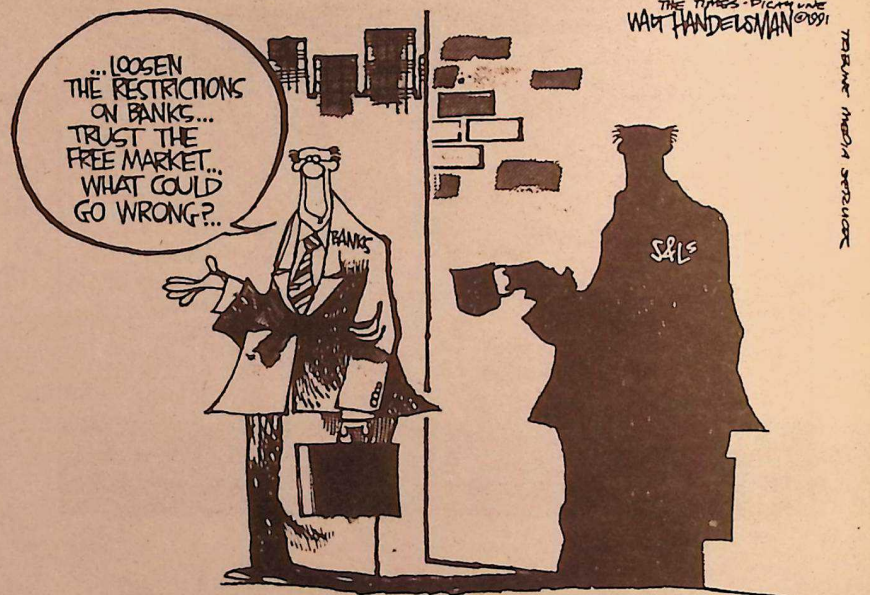
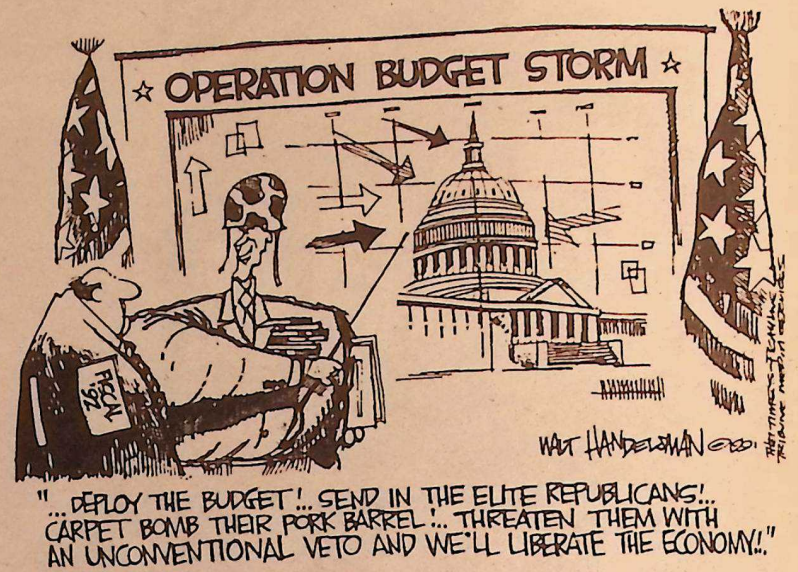
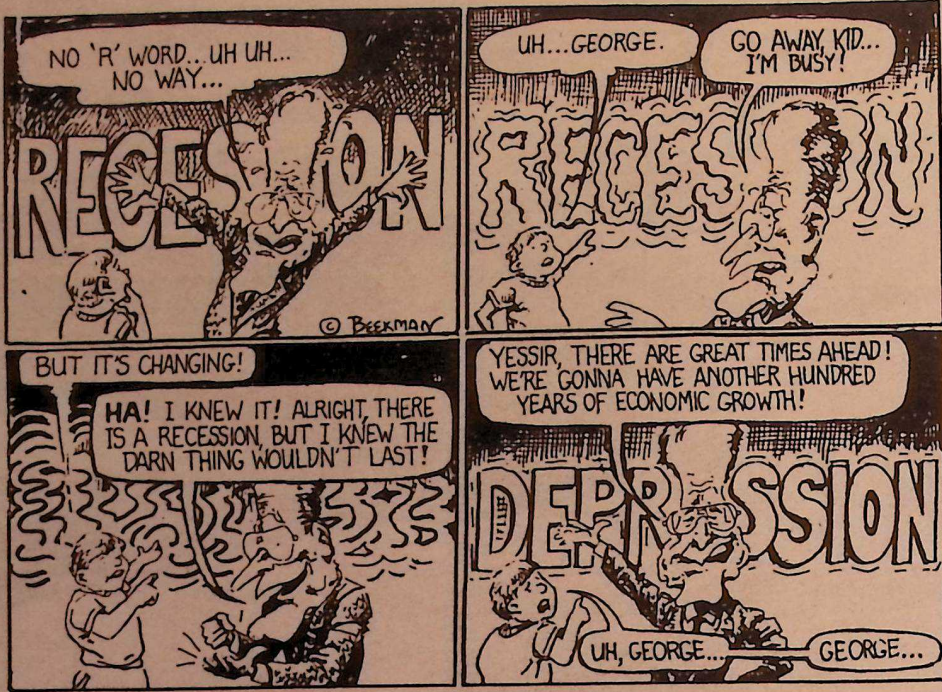
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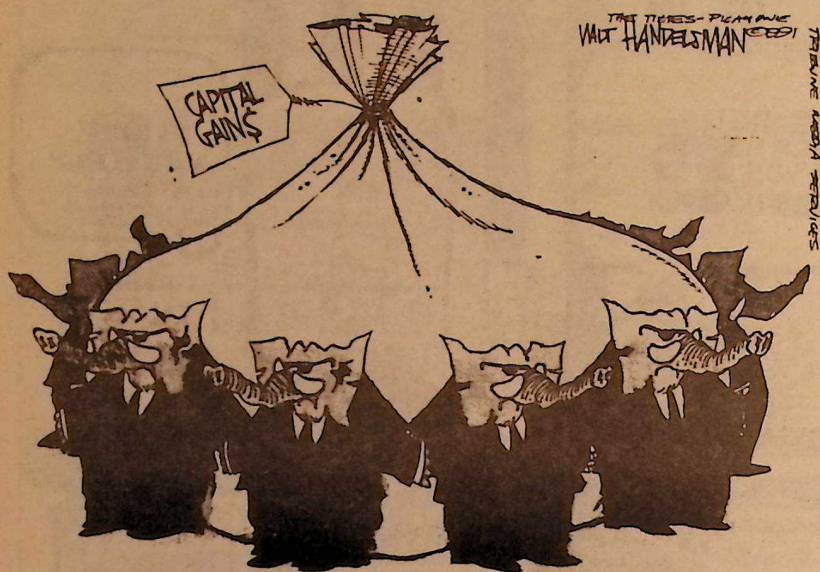


THINKING THE UNTHINKABLE

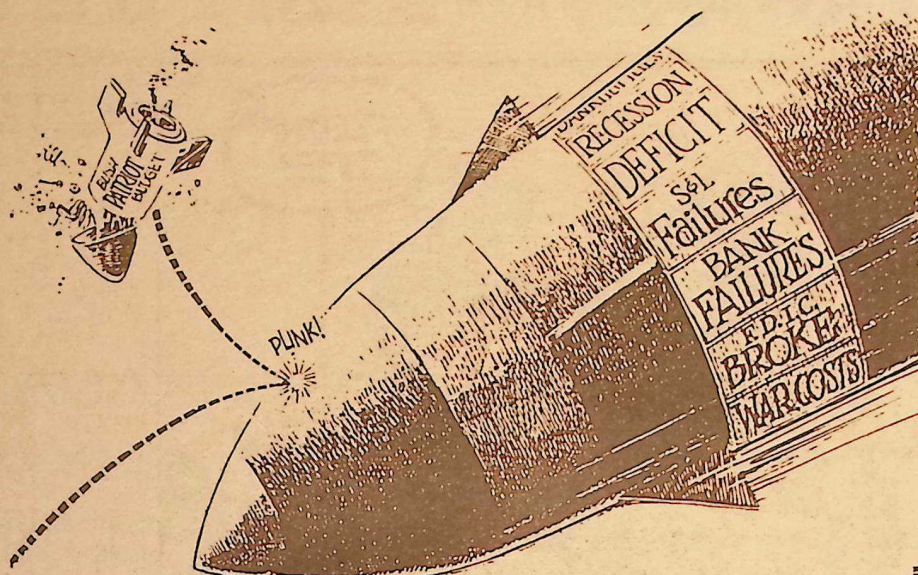


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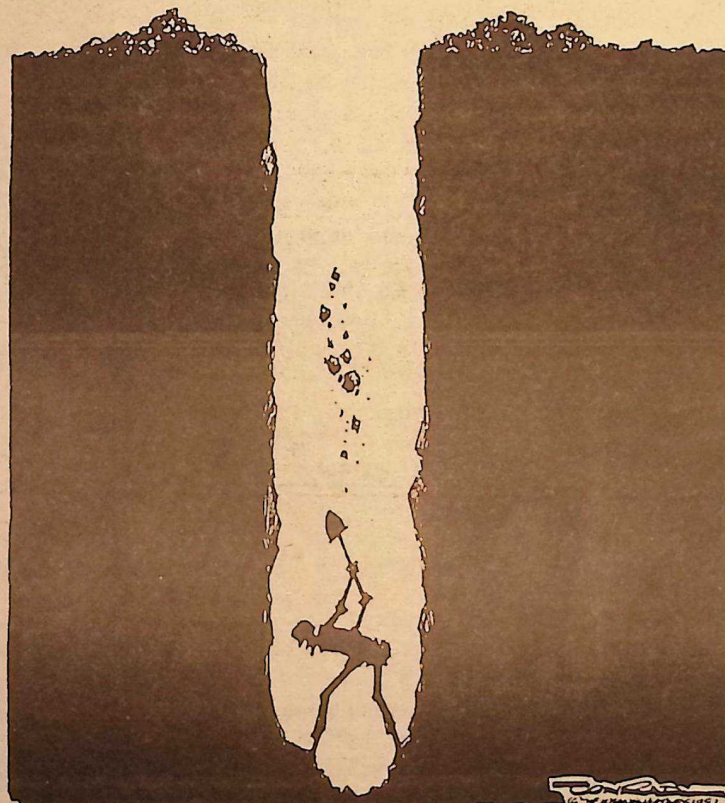


☆ GEORGE BUSH'S REPUBLICAN GUARD ☆

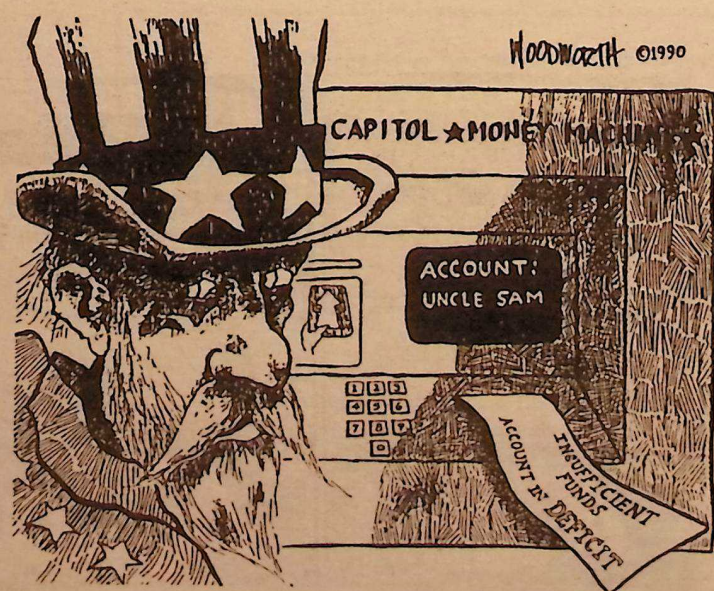
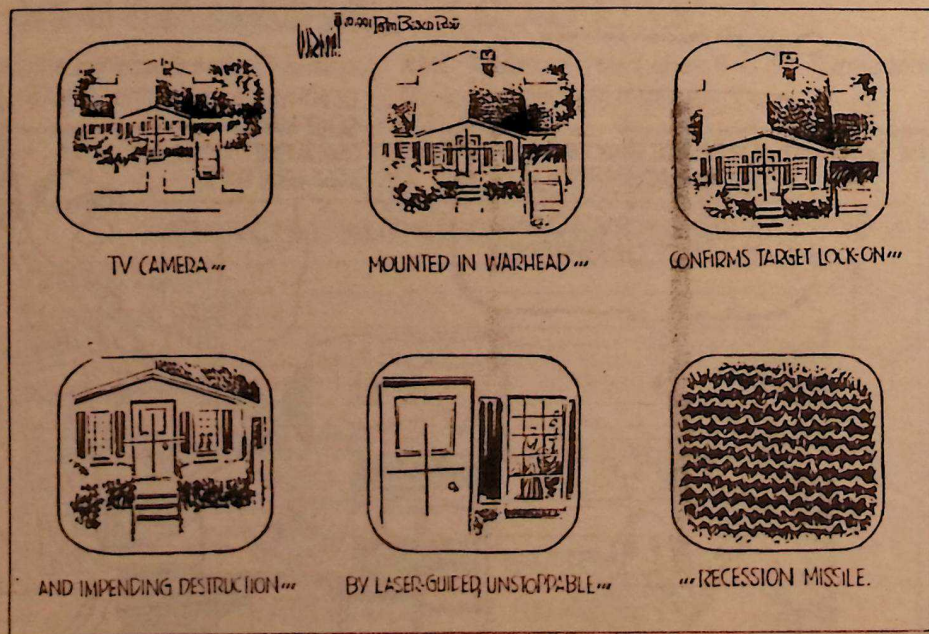


The Boston Herald

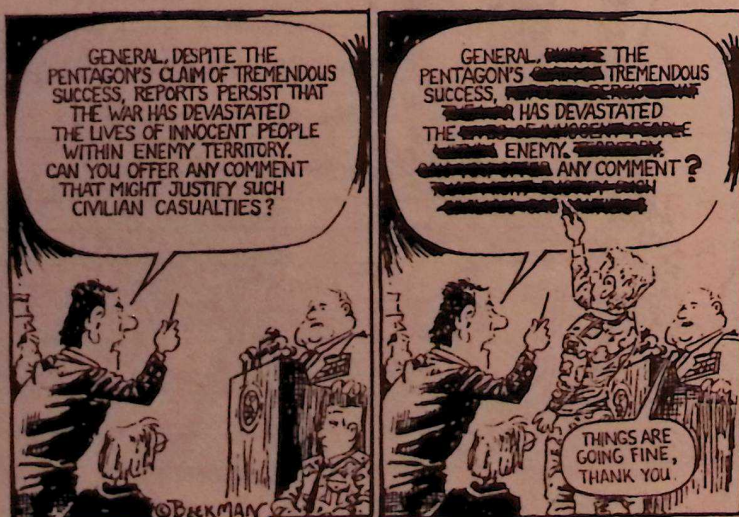
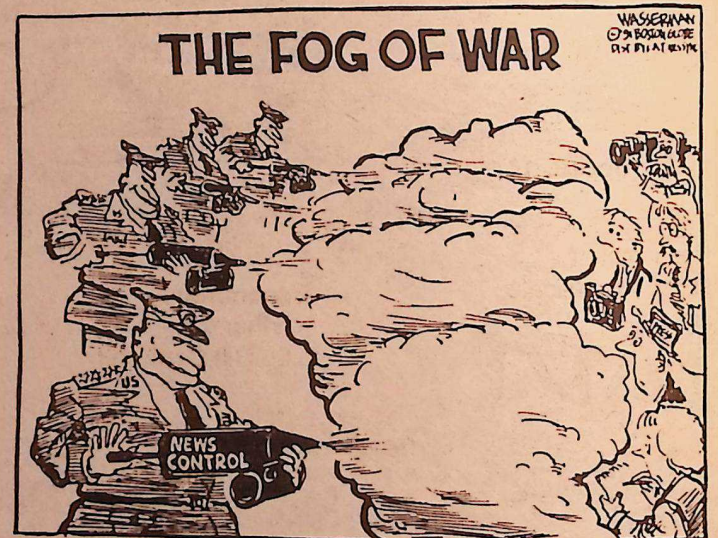
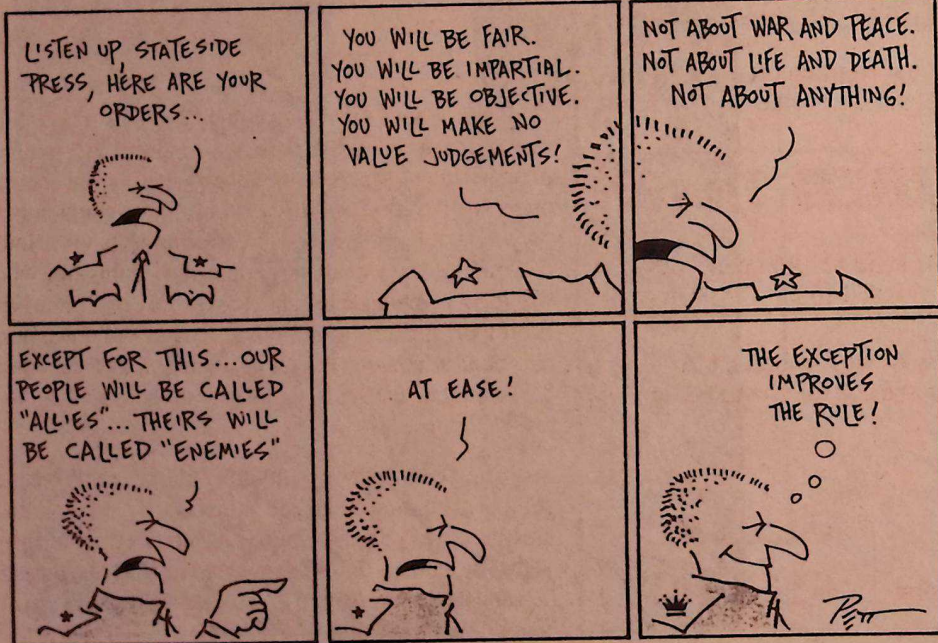
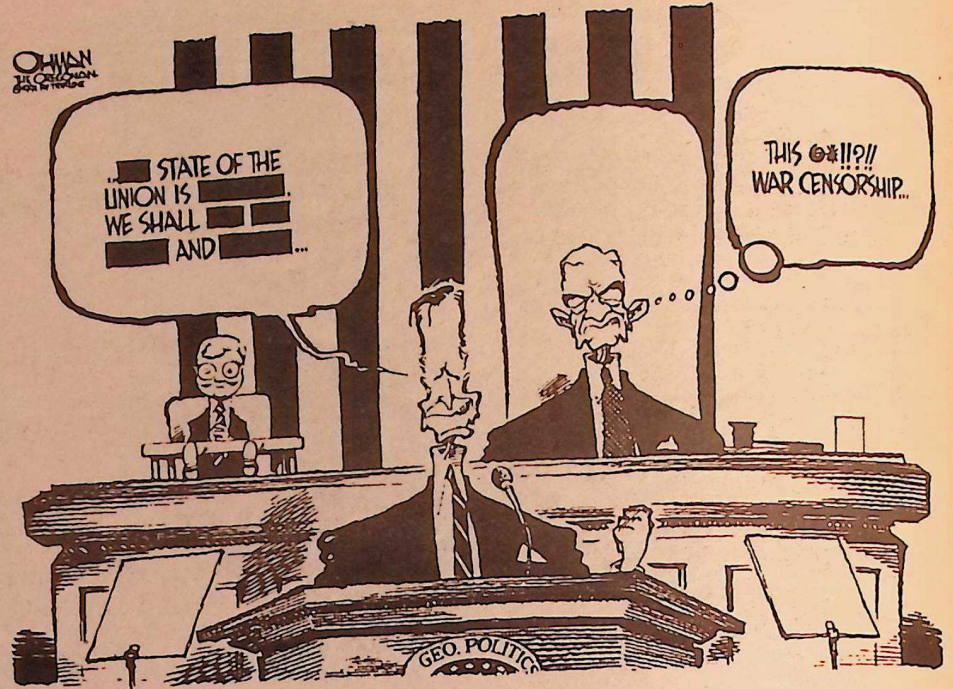
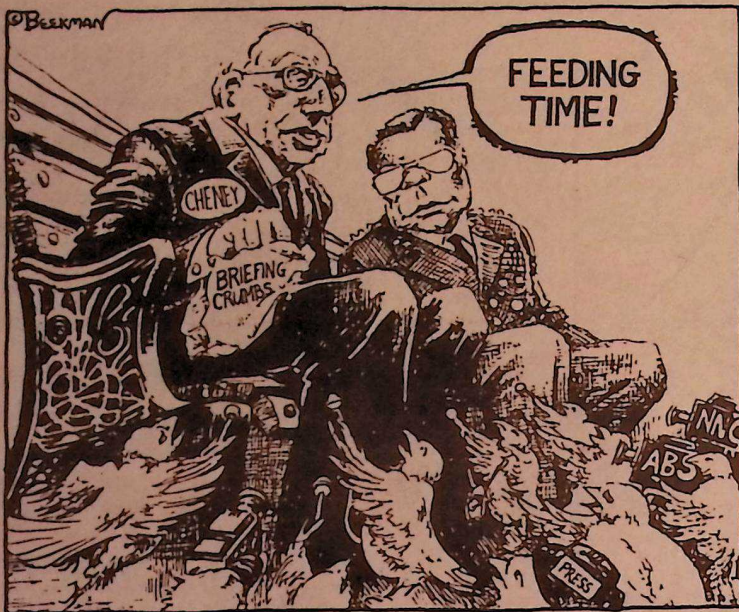
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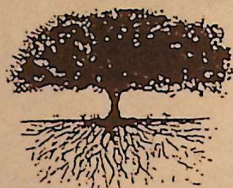
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What is this?

you may ask. After tabulating the results of our survey (Issue #31), we find that we have a loyal, large and avid readership who want more of the same. The Valley Comic News is committed to delivering that to you, and then some. We encourage our readers to support us by spreading the word and buying a subscription.

BUY A SUB WIN A PRIZE

To this end, the merchants in the area (listed left) have graciously donated these prizes for our present Subscription Drive and Prize Give-Away. All you have to do is fill out one or both of the coupons below, enclose a check for the special low, low price of \$15 per subscription, send it along and leave the rest to us. On March 11th we will pick tickets at random and notify the winners whose names will be printed in the following issue.

And what a great way to help us. This is your basic win-win proposition. We're sure you know some people in the greater United States who would benefit from the insightful outlook offered by the Valley Comic News. Remember, we are only available in Amherst, Northampton, South Hadley, and Greenfield. Think of all the people outside this area whose lives would be brightened by a bi-weekly dose of Comic Newsness. A brother, an aunt, your mother, your out-of-town honey, that old friend whom you haven't called. Think of the possibilities. You would be eternally popular with them and us. Or just get one for yourself.

Please remember that to be eligible for prizes, you must get a subscription. Enter as often as you like, but each entry must come with a subscription. All entries must be in by March 10th. The winners will be drawn the next day and the names will be published in the March 21st issue. There are two entry forms below. We hope that you take this opportunity to help us become the paper you want. Good luck and thank you for your support.

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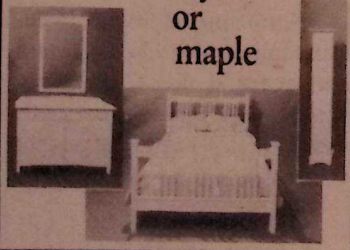
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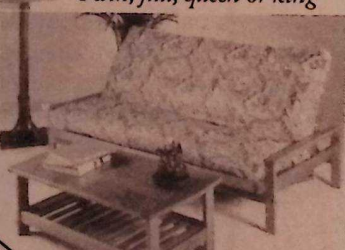
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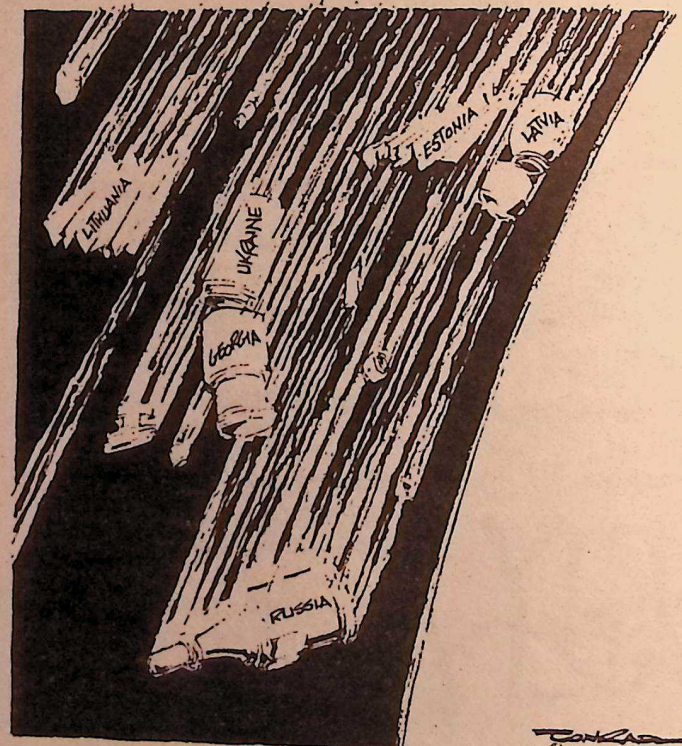
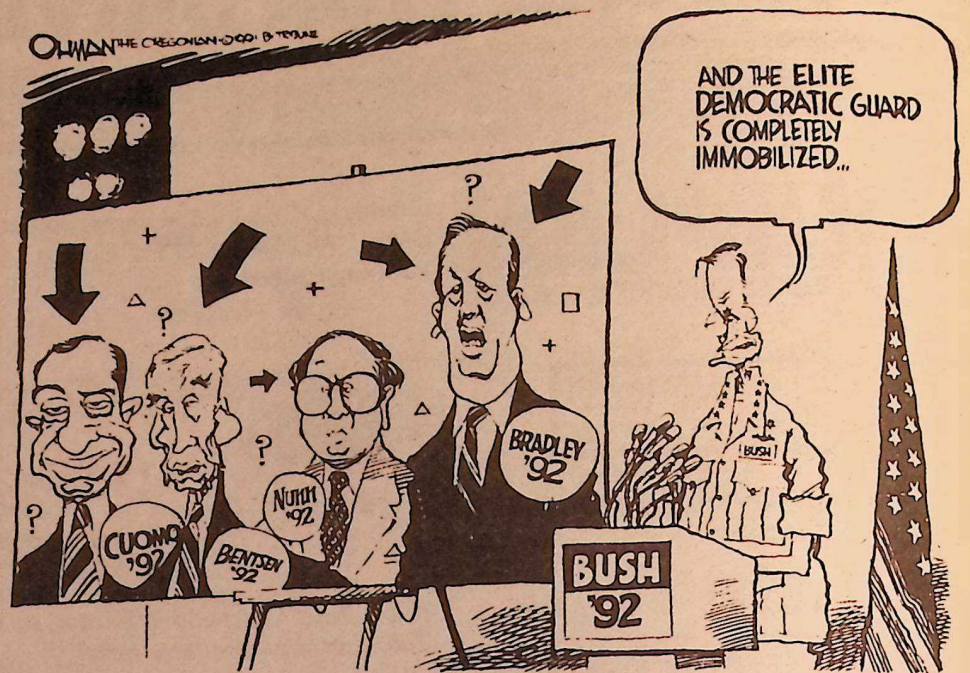
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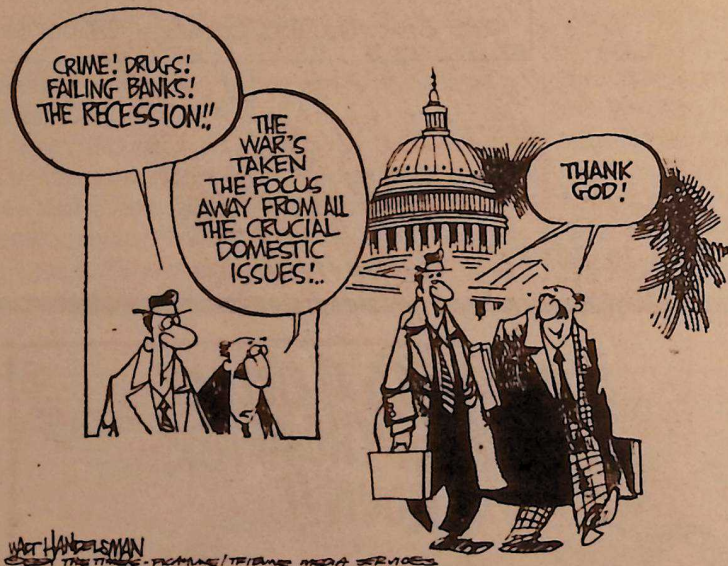
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DR. KINDER-GENTLER AND MR. BUSH



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with IZZY GESELL

For many of us, our sense of humor is a vastly under-utilized resource. This workshop aims to activate this resource by exploring the ways and means of using and understanding humor.

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- Humor As Stress Manager
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- Having More Fun At Work & At Home
- And the mandatory — **MUCH MORE!**

WHEN?

Sunday, March 10, 1991 7-9 PM

WHERE?

Peking Garden — Route 9, Hadley Mass

HOW MUCH?

\$15 per person

MORE INFO?

CALL (413) 586-2634

WHO?

Izzy Gesell is a nationally recognized speaker and workshop presenter. He is a member of the American Association for Therapeutic Humor, the American Society for Training and Development, the International Platform Society and the Duke Snider Fan Club.

"For a good time, call Wide Angle"

YES Izzy! I'd Like to attend this workshop...

Izzy: Great! So, how many people are coming? You: Well, _____ of us.

Izzy: Wonderful, at \$15 each.... You: That comes to \$_____

Izzy: Swell, just make out the check to: **WIDE ANGLE HUMOR** You: And where should I send it?

Izzy: **P.O. Box 962
Northampton, MA 01061** You: OK, See you on March 10th

Izzy: Thanks, and please don't forget to include your:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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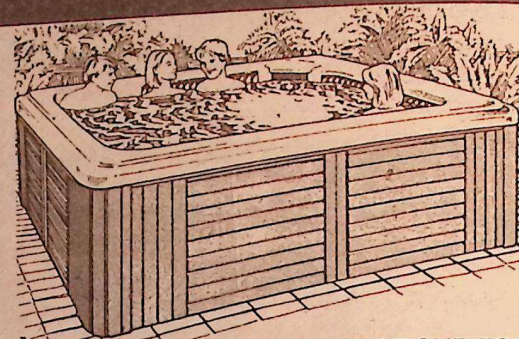
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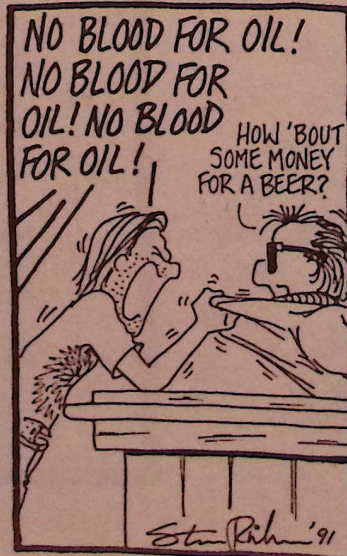
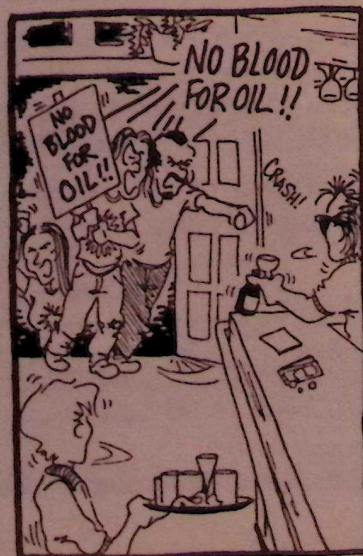
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THE BRASS & FERN By STEVE RIEHM



JOE BOB BRIGGS

Jane Fonda is one of the Teflon People. Nothing sticks to her. She can go to Hanoi and totally screw up the conditions for American prisoners of war, then marry a captain of industry who's getting rich off the *next* war. She can make one bad movie after another, play parts that were written for women 25 years younger, and still the film critics ooh and ah about the stylish Jane Fonda, the elegant Jane Fonda, the classy Jane Fonda.

Reagan was a Teflon kinda guy, the first President to change "I don't recall" from a cowardly lie into a *lifestyle*.

"I wasn't aware of how bad things were in the savings-and-loan industry. There are so many departments in the federal government."

"I have no memory of such a conversation concerning the Contras. We have so many meetings at the White House."

And on and on... The man had a million of these, and even the press accepted them: "Well, yeah, he seems like an honest guy, I guess he *doesn't* remember."

Martin Luther King is a deceased Teflon King. When the news came out a while back that many of his writings were plagiarized, including the papers he wrote in order to get his doctorate, it had virtually no effect on his reputation. I expected, at the very *least*, to hear something from the governor of Arizona. "Can we have the Super Bowl now? He's a crook." But the stories came, went, vanished.

Now. The opposite of the Teflon People are the Cocklebur People. *Everything* sticks to these people, no matter what they do.

The king of Cockleburrs is, of course, Dan Quayle. If Dan Quayle was dying of a gunshot wound and he had to call 911, the National Enquirer would have the tape of the call within an hour. That night Johnny Carson would be doing jokes about how he garbled his words when he told the operator "My stomach seems to be missing."

Dan Quayle's a politician, though, so maybe he deserves it. Here are two Cockleburrs that do *not* deserve it:

Sofia Coppola. Ever since "The Godfather III" came out and everyone realized that it was just a *good* movie, not the *great* movie that the first two were, the critics have been assigning blame. And the person they've pinned it on is not the writer, not the director, not the producer, not the studio, and not even the lead actors and actresses. They've pinned it on a supporting actress attempting her first major role. Her sin: she's the director's daughter.

Sure she was wooden in the love scenes. Sure she was a last-minute replacement for Winona Ryder. Sure she wasn't quite up to playing opposite Andy Garcia. (A real acting purist would have to blame part of her failure on her leading man, but somehow Garcia escaped all criticism.) But look at the venom spewed at this young woman: Entertainment Weekly put her on the cover, as the focus of an article suggesting that *she* ruined the movie.

This woman didn't run for office. This woman is not a public figure. All this woman did is put herself on the line by getting up in front of the camera and giving it a shot.

It's too bad that Jane Fonda didn't get the part, because if she had given an equally uninspired performance (remember her in "Rollover," for example?), it would have been written off as a great actress victimized by a bad script.

Lighten up on this lady.

And the other Cocklebur Person is Jeff Hostetler, the New York Giants quarterback. Throughout the NFL play-offs, the press hammered this guy. His sin, as far as I could tell, was that he doesn't *look* like a quarterback. His nose has more curves in it than the Amazon. He slouches around like a street person looking for his shoes. And he never really looks into the camera or, for that matter, seems to talk to anybody. At the moment that the Giants won the Super Bowl, everybody on the sidelines jumped nine feet into the

air ... except Hostetler. He was down on one knee, expressionless, like he was wondering "Is it over now? Can I stop?"

Every time he threw a wobbly pass, the announcers acted like Hostetler was about to lose it. Every time he got thrown on his back - and it happened several times - the announcers expressed fears that he might not get up or, if he did, might be too fuzzy to continue. There was just a general expectation that this guy, Hostetler, this "back-up" quarterback, wasn't gonna be able to take it all the way. He didn't look right. He didn't act right. He made too many mistakes. He didn't look like a leader.

So the guy wins the Super Bowl - and, even then, he's a Cocklebur. It was a "magnificent defensive effort." It was a "great game plan by Bill Parcells." And, when they spoke of Hostetler, it was to say, "For seven years he was a backup quarterback, but I'm sure it was worth the wait." As though they were saying, "Yeah, sure, he's a hero - but he probably couldn't do it again."

I hope Hostetler continues to slouch around like a nerd and avoid eye contact and generally not act like a quarterback. He doesn't have to make any explanations. He did it. He's the best goldum quarterback in the world, because he won the only game that ultimately matters. He never said a word, but his actions said it better: "Shut up."

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L. M. Boyd

Albert Einstein once wrote on a blackboard: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."

Q. How many wars are going on now?

A. About 100. In more than 40 countries. Mostly between state armies and guerrilla insurgents. So says historian Bernard Nietschumann.

Q. Where'd the name "Iraq" come from?

A. An Arabic word meaning "origin."

Andrew Jackson bought his wife a parrot. She died. He left the parrot in Tennessee when he became President. He died. The parrot was brought to his funeral. It intermittently punctuated the ceremony with cusswords heard by all.

About half the countries that use coins they don't mint themselves have them minted in Canada.

If you carry \$61 around with you, you're exactly average for this part of the world, according to the surveytakers. But averages don't mean much. It's also known men habitually carry about twice as much cash as women.

Any year when pop singers dwell overlong on sorrowful subjects, you can expect bad times the next year. So say researchers who related Top 40 music from 1955 to 1989 to economic conditions. Maybe the reverse is true, too. Some of the most optimistic tunes came out of the Depression of the 1930s.

Q. Is it true Henry Kissinger has a tiger tattooed on his buttock?

A. That's George Shultz. No, I mean Shultz has the tattoo. It's the Princeton tiger, reportedly.

Q. What was NASA before it was the National Aeronautics and Space Administration?

A. NACA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

The sage Norman Cousins said, "The eternal quest of the individual human being is to shatter the loneliness."

Q. You know the striped clapstick time movie makers snap shut in front of the camera at the start of a film scene - what's it for, exactly?

A. Lets the film editors synchronize the sound with the action.

Historians say Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III of France, never wore the same pair of shoes twice.

You can figure you've learned 70 percent of what you know through seeing.

A robin's bill is like a tweezers. A woodpecker's, like a chisel. A hummingbird's, like a straw.

Football's instant replay can seem pretty slow sometimes, but it's not as slow as early baseball's witness interview. There was a time when umpires occasionally took testimony from players, managers and spectators before making a ruling.

The more wildflowers you plant along the roadside, the less people tend to throw out litter. The government caretakers say they've found that out.

Q. Who came up with the first musical scale?

A. Can only report the earliest surviving musical notation dates around 1800 B.C. Carved on a clay tablet found in what's now Iraq.

Those who study accident statistics say they're convinced cellular telephones figure in a lot of mishaps.

"Best way to solve a computer problem is to sleep on it," says a bit-and-byte specialist. "Every day at my desk I dig myself into a technical hole. Every night away from my desk I dig myself out."

In the weightlessness of space, the human body doesn't make as many red blood cells, according to NASA scientists.

Food futurists say you're going to get fish hotdogs pretty soon. Might be tasty. No hurry.

Q. What was the first football team to have a live animal for a mascot?

A. U.S. Naval Academy. In 1890. A billygoat named "Bill."

"Ecocide" is the fancy word for environmental warfare.

An amorous animal, the male walrus. It's inclined to mate with any large animal it can pin down, including humans. Divers off the Florida Keys say 300-pound turtles are like that, too. One romantic reptile they call "Crazy Charlie" reportedly chases them all over the place.

Claim is if New York City's underground water mains were laid end to end, they'd reach China.

The Boeing 747-400 reportedly has more computer-monitored gauges - about 600 - than the space shuttle.

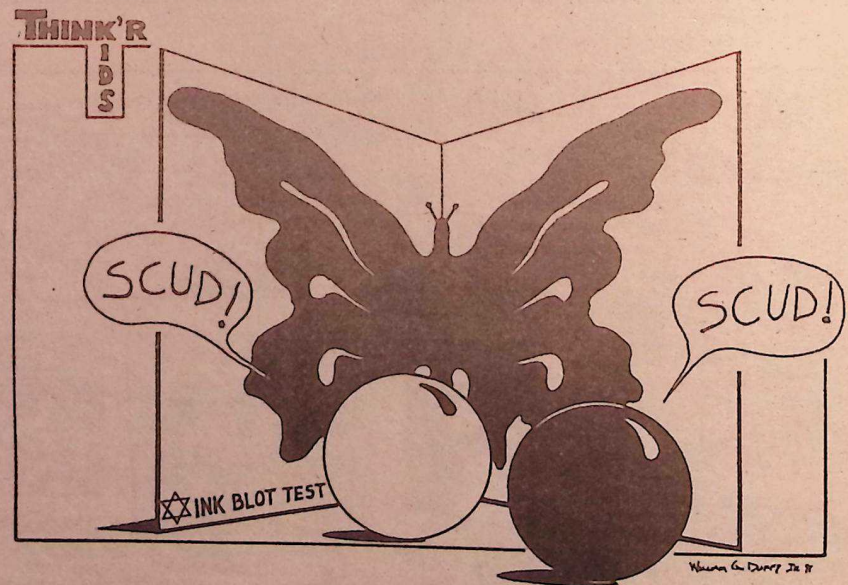


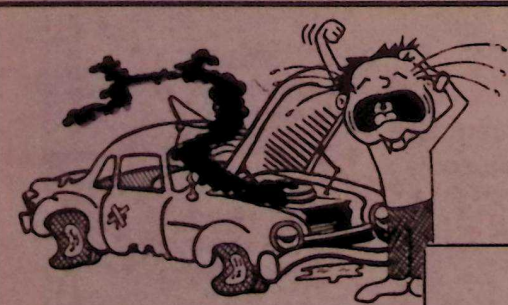
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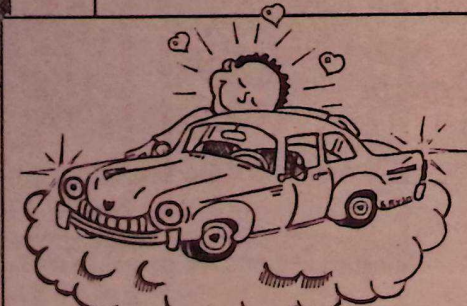
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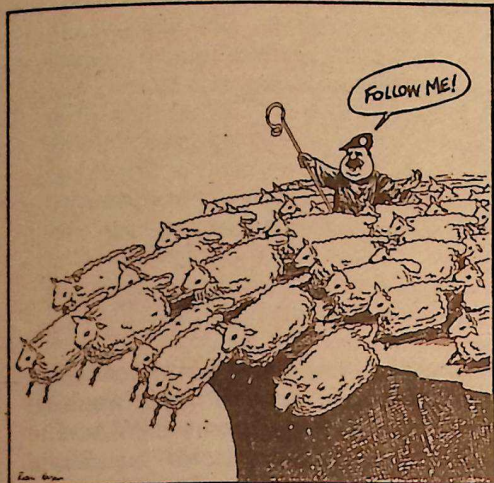
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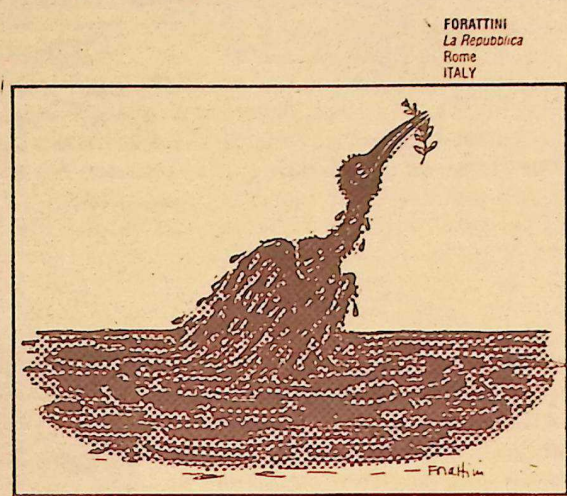
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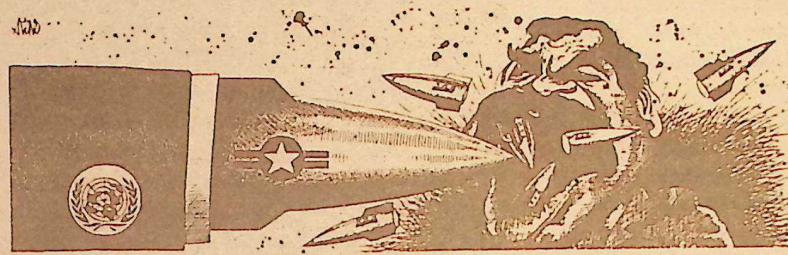
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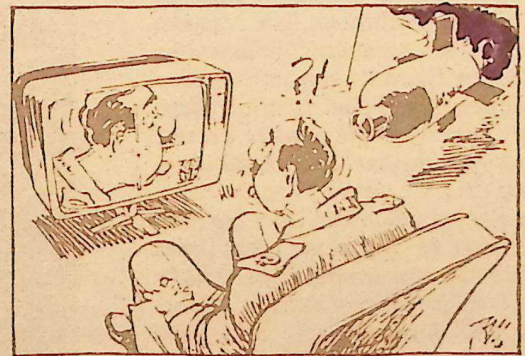
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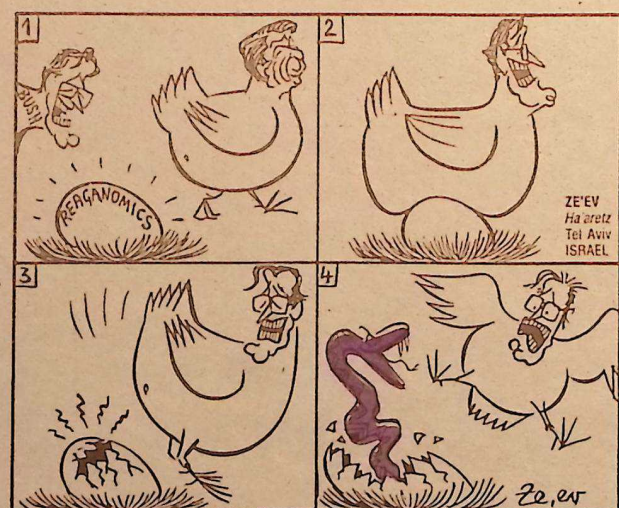
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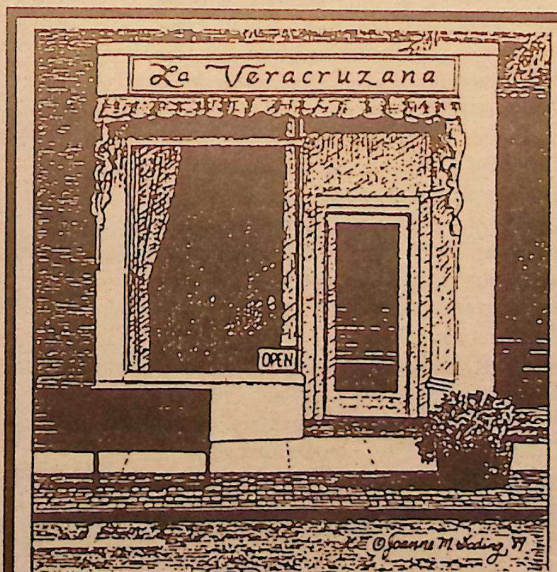
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DANIEL ELLSBERG

COMIC NEWS INTERVIEW DONE IN THE SUMMER OF 1989

"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our mode of thinking, and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe."
- Albert Einstein

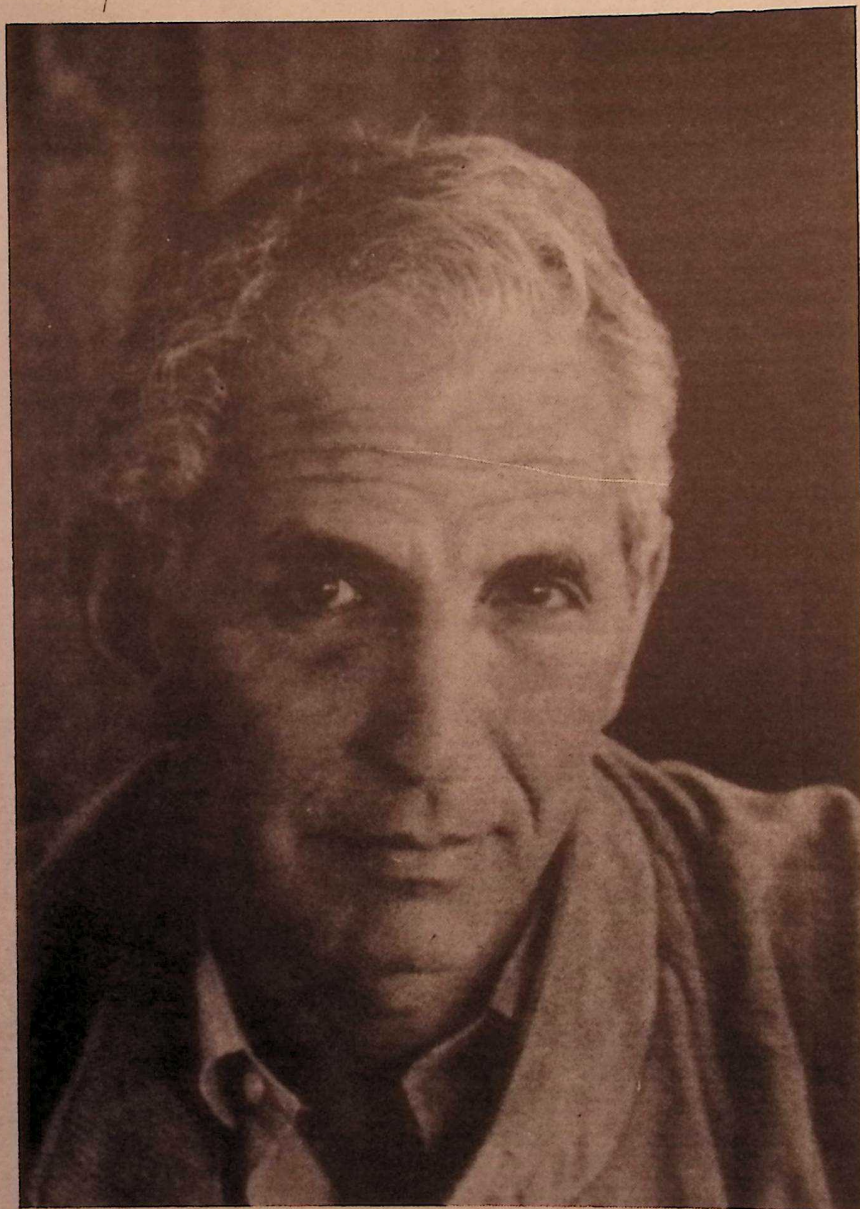
Daniel Ellsberg's brilliant government career began at the very heart of the establishment. A Harvard graduate (summa cum laude) and Ph.D., Ellsberg wrote both his undergraduate and graduate theses on "Decision-making Under Uncertainty." In 1958, he joined the Rand Corporation, a top government think tank; his job — analyze the defense and nuclear strategies of the Defense Department.

Ellsberg, called a "genius" by Henry Kissinger, had the highest security clearance available in the U.S. government. For ten years, he was a consultant to the White House and the State Department — and he was one of the authors of the Pentagon Papers, the 43-volume, top-secret study of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Ellsberg spent two years in Vietnam analyzing the war for the State Department — occasionally even walking "point" on infantry patrols in the Mekong Delta — and gradually became disillusioned with what he saw as the imperialism of the U.S. war effort.

His 1971 decision to release the Pentagon Papers to The New York Times catapulted him to international fame and a spot on President Richard Nixon's "enemies list." Kissinger was now calling him, "the most dangerous man in America." The Nixon Administration indicated him on twelve counts of espionage, theft and conspiracy and offered the judge in the case, Matthew Byrne, the Directorship of the FBI. The case was dismissed on the basis of government misconduct.

Today, Ellsberg, 58, is a world-renowned expert in the field of nuclear strategy and a prominent peace activist. He has been awarded the Tom Paine Award and the Gandhi Peace Award. In collaboration with American researchers and Soviet scientists, he is beginning work on a writing project for Harvard's Center for Psychological Studies of the Nuclear Era. The project will look at past nuclear crises — and the lessons that can be drawn from them; in the hopes of avoiding nuclear war in the future.

COMIC NEWS: One of the most important — and shocking — topics you've spoken of is the number of times since Hiroshima and Nagasaki that the United States has 'used' nuclear weapons. You've cited at least 10 incidents — occurring under almost every President since Harry Truman — when, by threatening our 'enemies' with our nuclear arsenal, we've dominated a confrontation and forced the other side to back down.



ELLSBERG: It's a risk we've been running for two generations now — a risk not remotely justified by the kind of stakes we've been pursuing, or in fact by any kind of human stakes. There is a cliché one hears over and over that fortunately nuclear weapons have never been used since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That's simply false; nuclear weapons have been used again and again, and they have often been used in secret.

Our nuclear stockpile is used the way that a gun is used when you point it at someone's head in a confrontation — whether or not you pull the trigger. If you can get your way without pulling the trig-

ger, that's the best use of the gun — it's probably why you bought it. And it's for uses like that that our Presidents buy nuclear weapons. Not because our elites hope or expect to have to pull the trigger, but because they hope they will get their way without pulling the trigger.

COMIC NEWS: Is the current administration likely to employ this same kind of nuclear brinksmanship?

ELLSBERG: Eight years ago George Bush was telling journalists that he thought a nuclear war could be won. Bush signed on to our war-fighting strategy with a fairly hard-line position on the threat of nuclear weapons. I don't think that necessarily

means he's very sanguine in his heart about using these weapons, or that he would be eager to use them in combat. We have to keep the distinction in mind — as it is in these people's minds — between combat use and the threat of that use. Bush wanted to show himself to be a credible wielder of threats, and thus a suitable candidate for both Vice President and President. However, that doesn't mean these threats are safe, or that we are safe with a man like that as our President.

And just because a weapon can be used successfully in this manner does not mean that such use is legitimate or safe. What we've been doing is entirely wrong. Not because there's no way to achieve our objectives with these methods; on the contrary, it's obvious they can succeed. Why be worried then? Because in failing, we may blow up the world.

COMIC NEWS: Despite the terrible risk, do you think this way of using nuclear weapons will continue to be a strong strategic lever?

ELLSBERG: This country is pretty far from renouncing the explicit threat of first use of nuclear weapons as a pillar of our foreign policy. That of course not only raises the chance — by their very existence — that nuclear weapons will be used at some time in the future, but the process of relying on such threats actually promotes a Cold War atmosphere in which crises are more likely to occur.

A very significant effect of this threat process is that it fuels the arms race. When the public buys into making these threats, it quickly buys — just as the President is led to buy — the idea that you have to have the weapons to make your threats credible. In other words, if you have in mind simply threatening or bluffing, you'd buy exactly the same weapons that you would if you had every intention of carrying out a preventive war, or a first-strike. To accept the threat is to prepare yourself to accept the whole build-up of nuclear weapons.

I certainly believe that we in the peace movement and the anti-nuclear movement *should* try to change that psychology and *must* try to change that psychology — but we have to recognize that that's not where we are now. That job lies ahead of us. I think the Freeze movement has fooled itself a little in believing that the public at large is as critical of buying nuclear weapons as the activists in the Freeze movement are. I am sorry to say, the American public does support matching whatever the Soviets continue to buy, and also buying whatever the President decides is necessary to keep our foreign policy effective and such

threats credible. That's where our political economy is right now and our ideology.

COMIC NEWS: Is this threatening strategy uniquely American or have the Soviets used their nuclear weapons in similar ways?

ELLSBERG: The Soviets have made threats a number of times, although in the past I tended to regard those as very obviously total bluffs. The Bay of Pigs, for example, came at a time when the Soviets had almost no nuclear weapons; one could be virtually sure that Khrushchev was bluffing, when he spoke of protecting Cubans with Russian rockets.

However, recently, I have been looking hard at the new data that has become available indicating just how much planning we were actually doing in '61 and especially in '62 for a possible invasion of Cuba. When you look at the record, there were a lot of activities that were clearly meant to be intimidating to the Cubans and their Soviet allies—but which were generally unknown to the American people—specifically, maneuvers in the Caribbean and the southwestern United States simulating invasions of Cuba. I think I, at the time, was typical of most Americans in supposing that Kennedy had given up any ideas of overthrowing Castro after the Bay of Pigs. Despite the fact that I had high clearances and was working on nuclear war planning at that time, I was totally unaware of the CIA's Operation Mongoose which amounted to a secret war against Cuba. So the recent Soviet revelations that they regarded their deployment of medium-range missiles to Cuba as primarily for the purpose of deterring a U.S. invasion is a case where the Soviets were using what amounts to a first-use threat: a threat not so much of deliberate launching by officials in Moscow in retaliation to American bombing or invasion of Cuba, but of possible unauthorized, desperate launching by a low-level Soviet officer in Cuba under attack. That's a scary threat, likely to deter attack, up to a point; but it was a reckless move, as it proved.

COMIC NEWS: As a nation we have always been very concerned with our international image; how does that self-consciousness affect this nuclear-threat dynamic?

ELLSBERG: Our leaders are always very worried that we will be seen as wimps and liberals who are incapable of being brutal and murderous. Actually, we don't suffer from that reputation all that much in the world. Presidents tend to ignore the fact that nuclear weapons have been used by this country, and only by this country, on humans at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And even long before Hiroshima we were committing mass murder in Tokyo and other cities in Japan, and before that in Germany—carpet bombing, terror bombing that was aimed at killing as many civilians as possible.

I think the implications of that are better understood in other countries, particularly those who've been under our bombs, than they are by most Americans. It doesn't take as much effort as our Presidents put into it to make it credible that we would kill large numbers of people if they defied us. And we've never been brought to the test because in a threatening situation, the other side did tend to back down. First

for the reason that Americans, both officials and public, tend to overlook: these adversaries—the Chinese, the Koreans, the Indochinese—did not put the risk as being all that low that the threat would be carried out if they did not give way, if they pushed the U.S. too far. And second, because the threat of nuclear war is so obscenely horrendous, it doesn't have to be 100 percent credible in order to be effective.

COMIC NEWS: Is there currently a parity between the United States and Soviet Union in terms of nuclear firepower?

ELLSBERG: Yes, since the late 1960s there's effectively been a parity, but with differences of various kinds. From a military point of view, most of the differences favor the United States; our weapons technically tend to be more advanced in terms of accuracy and mobility, and efficiency of warheads. But that doesn't make much difference, given the weight of Soviet nuclear firepower.

When Brezhnev displaced Khrushchev, the Soviet Union proceeded to spend something like a trillion dollars to build up their forces, to buy parity with the United States in order to avoid back downs such as the Cuban missile crisis, or in Berlin a year earlier, or at Quemoy in 1955 and '58. Well, there hasn't been a confrontation of similar magnitude since then—

preemptive strike is building. We have been able to target their forces before, but in the past, it was very hard to imagine that the Soviets could be thinking of striking us, because they were so much weaker. Therefore, a warning from our radar was certain to be disbelieved—and that's precisely what happened several times. There were warnings that we were under attack, but they were, thank God, disbelieved, and they proved to be false. So we didn't go to war. If, in a future crisis, our warning system told us they were in the process of attacking, we couldn't be confident that wasn't true. And finally, if SDI comes into play, with its ability to sweep the skies of reconnaissance and early warning satellites, the temptation to use it under the pressure of a convincing false alarm would be intense. We are moving into a situation that is far less stable than the last decade has been.

COMIC NEWS: Star Wars—a space-based missile defense system—was one of Ronald Reagan's pet projects. The Bush Administration seems to be distancing itself from Reagan's commitment to SDI. Is this something the peace movement could build on?

ELLSBERG: Yes, fortunately the peace movement was fairly effective in putting a ceiling on Reagan's pressure for SDI. And I think that approach is even more promis-

“This country is far from renouncing the explicit threat of first use of nuclear weapons as a pillar of our foreign policy. The process of relying on such threats promotes a Cold War atmosphere in which crises are more likely to occur.”

but we haven't been all that far from one either; it could have arisen in the Persian Gulf, or in Lebanon in 1983. And I'm much less confident that the Soviets would back down as they did in those earlier situations. The world doesn't seem to be a place where such confrontations can never arise again especially given our willingness to make threats. Next time, it would be up to our President whether or not to carry out our threat—and looking at the Presidents we've had—I doubt that every President in every case would back down, would fail to carry out the threat.

COMIC NEWS: And now we have a new generation of missiles being developed and deployed.

ELLSBERG: Unless the arms race is drastically modified, we are going to find ourselves in the mid-1990s—which are not so far away now—in a situation that has never really existed before: a situation of instability despite the large numbers of warheads on both sides. For the first time each side will have the ability to destroy a sizeable part of the nuclear forces of the other if it strikes first.

On the U.S. side, the Trident II missile when it's deployed, will give very accurate coverage of the Soviets' forces, targeting their hardened silos and land-based missiles. In addition, we're building enough attack submarines to entirely target their submarine fleet. So the tension toward a

ing with Bush who's a little closer in touch with reality on this one. Yet despite SDI's loss of its strongest defender and proponent, there remains the very considerable problem of the momentum of this program. Although it's important and worthwhile and do-able to hold the money below what Bush is asking for—or what Reagan was asking for—that's not really good enough. Because even at the rate of several billion a year—where SDI is still hanging—it is developing a steady momentum toward a proliferation of contracts that will create an enormous defense industry constituency.

COMIC NEWS: Have there been other developments in the last few years that the peace movement could perhaps build on?

ELLSBERG: I think Gorbachev's emergence in the Soviet Union is of enormous significance—the policies he's been pursuing, and the point of view he's expressing. The major challenge to this country, and thus to the peace movement to help bring it about, is to match Gorbachev's proposals—to meet him on his level. One can even dream of taking the initiative and going beyond his proposals, but I don't aim that high. The challenge to us basically is to have an administration that is open, really open to negotiating with him—to join with him to end the arms race by making the kinds of major reduction that he is pressing for, including changes in strategy across the board, including nonnuclear weapons.

I would be more optimistic than I am if we had an administration that had shown any willingness to take advantage of these opportunities. Although there will be a problem in getting the military/industrial complex to move in the right direction, the public, I think, is very ready, and has been for a long time; they would be willing to follow any President who took the lead. However, Bush is showing no indication of moving that way at all. All one can say is that this administration remains at this rather late date in its first year so unformed, so nebulous in its policies, that it may yet move in the right direction. That means there is a major role for the peace movement in helping to define that—to shape his possibilities and his environment, and to define some initiatives that we want him to take. Are there specific proposals the peace movement should be pressing Bush to make; actually what we need are not new proposals but for Bush to begin agreeing to some of the proposals that the Soviets have already put on the table. The advice we should be giving Bush is: *Just Say Yes*.

Yes to a comprehensive test ban; yes to maintaining the ABM treaty; yes to the mutual abolition of short-range nuclear weapons; yes to an immediate 50 percent reduction in strategic weapons. Then we can go on from there.

COMIC NEWS: You're saying essentially that Gorbachev's courting of the West is sincere—that he genuinely hopes for peace?

ELLSBERG: He's been saying things that I wish I'd heard from American leaders, and in fact have never heard from American leaders in terms of a comprehensive vision of alternatives to the Cold War and to the arms race, and of the dangers that the present course really poses. He speaks with a kind of emotion and coherence on the illegitimacy and the unacceptability of the present course of events that does sound very sincere to me. The words sound good to me. But still, you could say that one has to wait and see how he backs that up. The fact is, it is not only proposals that Gorbachev has made but unilateral moves. One example is his willingness to suspend nuclear testing for 18 months without any matching by the United States. Another is his significant reduction of Soviet nonnuclear forces in Europe, including the tank forces that have been the excuse for our first-use nuclear threats for 40 years now. I hope and expect that he'll go further in that direction. These moves are far more than words, and a very strong indication of sincerity.

COMIC NEWS: Through your involvement in the Freeze movement and your numerous trips to the Soviet Union, you've had a lot of personal contact with Soviet scientists, and the Soviet intelligentsia. Are Soviet attitudes really changing under Gorbachev?

ELLSBERG: Oh, yes. These are not at all crude political gestures of some kind. I get the sense that their elites, led by Gorbachev, are simply facing realities in a way that one does not hear from American elite circles at all. Gorbachev has in effect opened to them, given them permission to talk realistically about the risks of the nuclear era, about strategy, so that you hear an awful lot more common sense—first from Gorbachev, and second from their intellectuals—than you are likely to hear in comparable circles

over here, where people still feel compelled to stand up and talk about the legitimacy and the necessity of initiating nuclear war. Granted, our people think of themselves as just bluffing — they feel our leaders are not kind of people who would actually be willing to initiate the use of nuclear weapons, they're only pretending. But as Kurt Vonnegut's narrator says in *Mother Night*, "We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be." For over 40 years our leaders have been pretending to be willing to blow up the northern hemisphere if various not-impossible things should occur. They're pretending to be insane, immoral and fantastically dangerous and over the long run, that is insane, immoral and fantastically dangerous.

COMIC NEWS: Just let me play devil's advocate for a moment. The United States' current policy would allow us to use — or threaten to use — nuclear weapons as an answer to Soviet aggression directly against the U.S., against our NATO allies, or against our 'foreign interests.' What other alternatives would you propose?

ELLSBERG: It's impossible to define a political or moral or psychological goal, a human ambition of any sort, that would be furthered by initiating the combat use of nuclear weapons. In other words, there is no human goal known to me that would be furthered by destroying most life in the northern hemisphere and possibly all life on earth. What I'm saying is that American elites actually still feel compelled for political reasons to take an insane position and to argue for propositions that can't possibly be justified. Meanwhile, the Soviets aren't in that position. Already under Brezhnev, the Soviets renounced the first-use of nuclear weapons, so they are not compelled to defend that position.

In this respect, the Soviets are freer, you could say, than we are. Our people don't feel free, as a matter of policy, to speak in a remotely humane manner on this issue, and the Soviets do. We can envy them that. I don't envy the Soviets very much, as a matter of fact, but that's one thing I do. I also envy them their leader right now. I certainly am not alone in wishing that Gorbachev had been running over here.

COMIC NEWS: Why do you envy them Gorbachev?

ELLSBERG: We haven't seen for many years a leader of his caliber in any country that I can think of. Gorbachev is a fairly astounding statesman and world leader in terms of his willingness to repudiate the policies not only of his immediate successors, but really of generations of Soviet leaders — to talk about the faults in their positions and the need for change. We have seen very few leaders ever in history that were willing to free themselves from an allegiance to past policies at a time when it's needed. And the measures he's taking are remarkably adapted not only his own country's needs, but to what the world needs at this point.

This isn't to say that he invented the whole movement by himself. Every Soviet will tell you there are broad desires for these kinds of shifts in Soviet society; it's not an accident that Gorbachev came to power. But still, the same Soviet will say, without Gorbachev you wouldn't be seeing

the changes anywhere near this fast or expressed anywhere near so dramatically. **COMIC NEWS:** I'm wondering — I guess you were about 13 or 14 years old at the time of the bombing of Hiroshima — do you remember what you were doing when you heard the news? Did you have any understanding of what we had done?

ELLSBERG: I remember very well the day I saw the headlines. I was 14; I was in Detroit and I picked a paper out of the newsbox and read about Truman's description of this as the power of the sun, the greatest thing in history, and an immense triumph for American science. I remember my reaction of horror, and the feeling that I knew exactly what this weapon was — the bomb we had studied a couple of years earlier in school.

Two years earlier, in 1943, when I was 12 years old, I had a social science teacher who introduced several notable ideas. One of these was the United States' treatment of the Japanese-Americans during the war; he invited a Nisei to lecture to the class, someone who had been confined in a concentration camp in California. What this suggested was the possibility that our country was capable of doing something quite unconstitutional and wrong; this was a striking concept for a 12 year old — or any American — in the midst of World War II to hear.

“Humanity's survival depends on changing U.S. policy — and that change depends on the workings of our democratic system, which demands defending the First Amendment against the effective and strong attack that it is currently under.”

This teacher also brought up the general subject of what was called cultural lag — the idea that human technology had gotten out ahead of our ability to control it; and out ahead of our moral and political development — that technology posed problems of destructiveness that people weren't yet ready to handle. In that context, he raised the possibility of a breakthrough bomb in the future that would be based on the 1938 discovery of uranium fission, and that would be something like a thousand times more powerful than existing bombs. And he actually gave us this concept of the uranium bomb, and we were to write a paper on what the outcome would be — whether it would be a good thing for humanity if such a weapon came into existence. Well, as I recall, I assumed that it would be the Germans who would develop such a weapon, for two reasons: it was the Germans who had discovered fission, and it seemed like more of a Nazi weapon, as it was, as it should have been. It was a weapon that was kind of natural for the Nazis, and not, we would have thought, for ourselves. Now that last point was a delusion; I wasn't conscious in 1943 that we had already adopted the civilian terror bombing strategies of Hitler. In fact, by '44 and '45, we were doing the kind of bombing for which a nuclear weapon was perfect. An atomic weapon just enabled us to do with one bomb what we were already doing with a thousand bombers at one time. Anyway, I

wrote my paper and concluded that whoever got this new weapon — the ultimate consequences would be terribly bad, that humanity simply could not handle a destructive power of that kind, the temptation to use it would be too great. So that day in Detroit, there was a horrible feeling of recognition, and an ominous feeling for the future — I knew we had developed a uranium bomb. And we had used it.

COMIC NEWS: Given the political climate of the United States at the end of the war, wasn't this quite an unusual reaction?

ELLSBERG: Unusual, although not unique. I do run into other individuals who were as disturbed as I was, but we were in a very small minority. We've discussed how we felt our reaction separated us from the rest of America — our feeling being that our country had done something very wrong and very dangerous.

For most people the emotions that might have been evoked by the bombing — the questions about it — were overwhelmed by euphoria at ending the war. The American people as a whole have always accepted Hiroshima as necessary and justifiable. And that's to say a great deal, unfortunately, because if Hiroshima was justifiable, then there isn't much that can't be justified under some circumstances. To put it another way,

for all we hear about terrorism as an absolute evil these days — terrorism being the deliberate destruction of noncombatants for political purposes — the American people as a whole have accepted for the last 40 years that one of the great acts of terrorism in all human history was in fact justified under the circumstances. If you can use nuclear weapons on innocent cities like Hiroshima and Nagasaki, then there isn't much that is ruled out. There's nothing that's absolutely forbidden. And that was the lesson the American public learned from Hiroshima.

COMIC NEWS: Did this change in the shape of the future affect your decisions about your own life?

ELLSBERG: Yes. Years later I was very open to the invitation to join the Rand Corporation. That was in the era of the supposed 'missile gap,' when we were led to believe that the greatest danger of a nuclear war was a possible Soviet surprise attack. I was very happy to join an effort to deter that attack, because to me the most urgent thing in the world was lowering the risk of nuclear war. Rand seemed the best opportunity I could have of contributing to that; I would have been very happy to do that work literally for nothing. That was in 1958. And for the last 31 years I've always thought of my major life's work as being to reduce the risk of nuclear war — a vocation that was really started for me in 1943 and '45.

COMIC NEWS: Re: The role of the American people in determining the course of the arms race.

ELLSBERG: We are living in a country that is moving the world toward nuclear war. I am reminded of a thought that came to me once in the middle of the night — I woke up with it when I was still at Rand, in the period when I was copying the Pentagon Papers. The words in my head were: "I sense that I am living in a society that is preparing a catastrophe." The sense that continued from that thought was that the country as a whole — with varying attitudes — was doing jobs that contributed directly to the construction of the apocalypse.

If nuclear war comes, it won't be anything like lightning from the skies. It will be a situation in which the American people cooperated, an implementation of plans that were made by Americans and Soviets and French and British, carried out by millions and millions of citizens whose work was absolutely essential to the possibility of the explosion that has finally taken place. It will have been a work of immense human organized preparation — basically led by our country — the pace forced by our country.

I think the American people understand the dangers of an actual hot nuclear war. They understand that they would not survive that war, that it would be almost impossible to limit. And they are apprehensive about that possibility. But I don't think they truly understand the dangers of the arms race. On the contrary, they accept what they are told by the authorities in this country — that the arms race unequivocally lowers the risks of war by keeping us superior and providing a basis for deterrence. Of course, they are aware that this race is not without risk, because they know the weapons could go off. In fact, they're more realistic than our elites who tend to think that the elites in all the countries will keep things under control and keep themselves under control, and the buttons will never get pushed. And the public is right about this; the buttons may get pushed. However, I think the mass of the public does accept the view of the elites that the risks are lowered if we make an effort to keep racing to match the Soviets. And that's tragic. There are very few of us who can say realistically that we are doing everything we could possibly be doing from moment to moment and week to week to resist nuclear war.

COMIC NEWS: But what can the average person do? Most people feel overwhelmed when confronted with the nuclear question.

ELLSBERG: It has been my ambition for the last 10 years to end the arms race the way the Vietnam War was ended — and the war was ended by pressure from the American people, effectively on Congress. I don't think any President is going to take the initiative on this. Americans could very easily be led away from the arms race by a leader who was inclined to do that. But of course, the problem is getting such a leader; the establishment in general — the major campaign contributors, the military/industrial complex, and the forces responsible for nominating and electing the candidates — doesn't want to see these policies changing.

That was also true of the continuation

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of the Vietnam War though, and yet the war ended. Pressure, to be effective, has to be concentrated on Congress. We never really achieved much toward ending the war by our presidential elections. In fact, we several times voted for the person who was thought to be most likely to end the war, but nonetheless we got somebody who continued the war — that was true of LBJ and it was true of Nixon. But what did end the war was Congress took the money away for it because they came to believe that they would lose their jobs if they didn't. And they got that impression from pressures applied by the American people — electoral pressure, and lobbying, and certainly from the demonstrations and the civil disobedience that caused so much turbulence in the society.

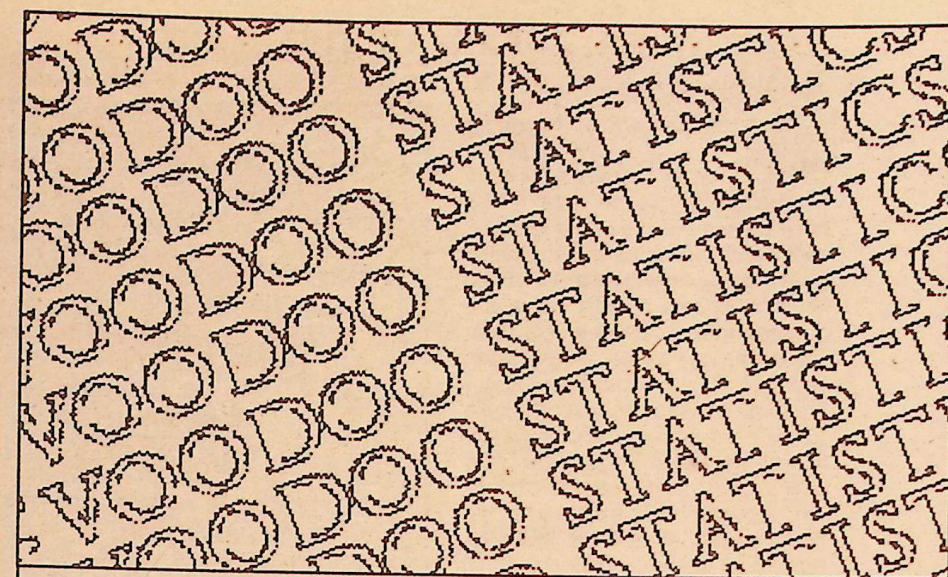
COMICNEWS: As we watch the final act of the Iran-contra affair play out in Oliver North's trial, in a way, little seems to have changed since the end of the Vietnam War. The government's manipulation of the media and the American people seems still based on two familiar techniques: controlled release of information and an appeal to patriotic stereotypes. Isn't the government managing arms race issues in very much the same way?

ELLSBERG: Yes. We're facing, with respect to the arms race, very much the same governmental attitudes that we saw during the Vietnam War. That's why I say the answer on our side has to be much the same: that is, a variety of pressures including demonstrations and civil disobedience, along with lobbying and education and campaign activities.

I think that there should have been much more attention paid to something that almost surfaced in the Irangate hearings, but which was successfully suppressed. That was North's participation in planning for concentration camp detention of resisters in the event — he mentioned two possible events — a nuclear emergency, or much more likely — the President's decision to intervene somewhere in Central America. In which case, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was making plans, in which North participated from the White House, for emergency detention of hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens who might object to invasions of their homeland — and American citizens who might join them in that. A list I presume that I'm on — and I wouldn't want to insult you by suggesting that you're not on it too.

Besides the dangers of the arms race, I think that El Salvador right now offers very great dangers of becoming another Vietnam. And for that matter, the Philippines offers the same possibility. I think the government has learned to be increasingly sophisticated about how to resist and manipulate pressures from the public; they learned during the Vietnam War limits they should accept to resistance if they're going to be successful in future interventions. Next time, we won't see them behaving as restrainedly toward dissent. We should be mobilizing right now to clear space for ourselves to resist illegal wrongful wars in the future, as well as the arms race.

COMICNEWS: Many Americans believe that this country is at a crossroads in its Constitutional system — that we are



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witnessing a shift away from democracy, away from the checks and balances of our Constitutional system. A recent development in that direction has been the conviction of Samuel Loring Morison on charges nearly identical to the charges you were tried on in the Pentagon Papers case. You were the first person ever to be prosecuted for releasing information to the press; your charges were dismissed. Morison [a defense intelligence agency analyst who gave photographs of a Soviet carrier to *Jane's Defense Weekly*] was the second American ever to be prosecuted for this, and the first to be convicted. What's your response to the Morison case and to the appellate decision upholding his conviction?

ELLSBERG: The Morison case is a very ominous development. It's a serious abridgment of the First Amendment — in the direction of legitimizing the secrecy system which up until now has been solely an administrative system without a legislative or legal foundation. Since the Morison decision, which became final just last year, there is now the added sanction of criminal punishment, of imprisonment for people who give secrets. This is a very important step in the direction of keeping our actual foreign policy secret. In many respects, our policy is based on terrorism; and it involves American aggression — a basis that would not bear a lot of open political debate in this country if the public was fully informed of what was going on.

It's very important to the maintenance of that policy that it be kept secret. The Rea-

gan Administration was very active in shoring up the government's ability to keep its secrets from the public — by subverting and gutting the Freedom of Information Act and its implementation. And the government is getting tougher in other areas, too. I think they learned from Vietnam that the next time they intervene, in Central America or the Philippines, they must try to impose censorship and other sharp constrictions of our First Amendment freedoms of the press, speech, petition and association. These are issues that I think deserve very strong political resistance.

To lose the First Amendment is to lose the foundation of our form of government, and at a time, when far from finding that form of government obsolete in the nuclear era, I'm led to think that it is the best hope of humanity. Humanity's survival depends on changing U.S. policy — and that change depends on the workings of our democratic system, which demands defending the First Amendment against the effective and strong attack that it is currently under. If I had the Pentagon Papers today, I would certainly challenge the Morison rulings, and go to prison for it if I had to, because we cannot — we must not — live with the acceptance of secrecy surrounding our foreign policies when those policies are as murderous and as dangerous as ours have come to be. ■

INTERVIEW BY

Bob Blanchard
& Susan Watrous

War Casualties



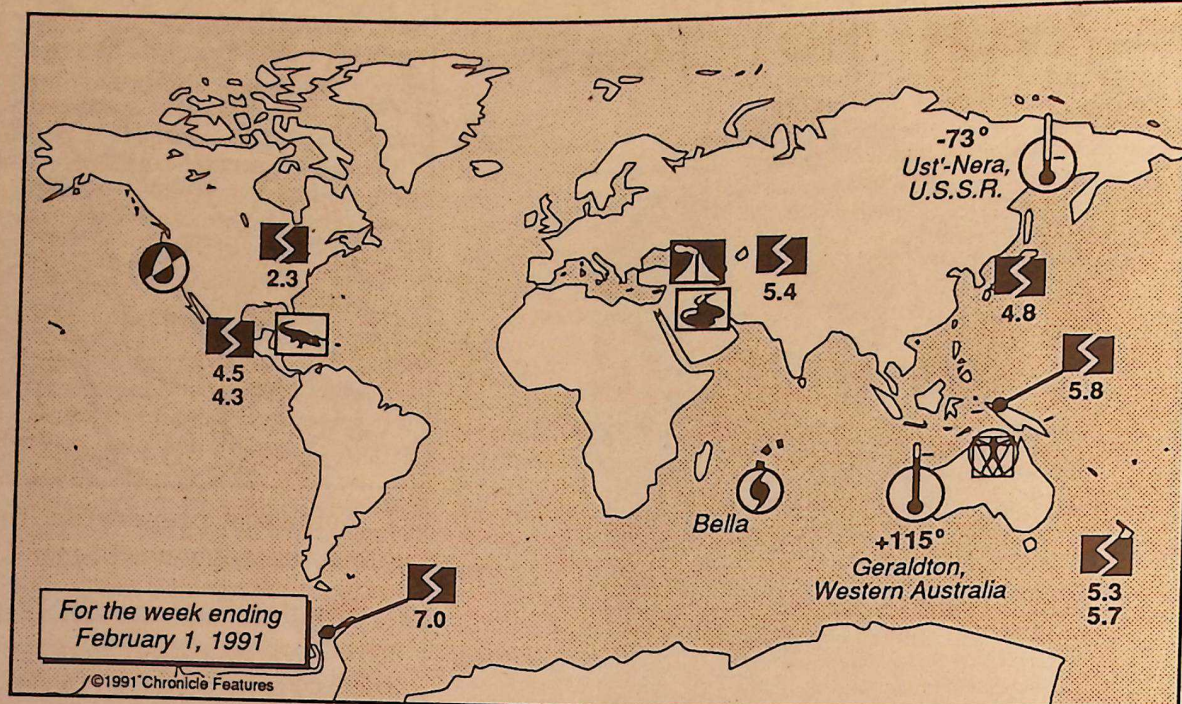
Thousands of migratory birds wintering in Indian national parks may have to change course on their flights back home because of the worst oil slick in history, and the smoke plumes from burning oil in the war-torn Gulf. Siberian cranes usually begin migrating northward by the end of January, overflying Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. Other flocks leave about the same time to cross several Middle Eastern countries, including Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Television coverage of the ground war in northern Saudi Arabia has clearly shown flocks of migratory birds flying directly over the battlefields.

The Gulf War threatens the existence of rare species of gazelle, leopard and wolf in the Middle East. Almost 20 species of animals in Iraq, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were identified as "endangered or vulnerable" by wildlife conservationists before the hostilities broke out on Jan. 17. G.M. Oza, General Secretary of the International Society of Naturalists, warned that widespread destruction of animal habitat on the desert steppes would greatly deplete wildlife numbers.

Tropical Disease



Doctors in Australia's tropical Northern Territory believe that this season's heavy monsoon rains have contributed to an outbreak of a rare and deadly disease which has killed six people. First reported among Burmese opium smokers early this century, the tropical disease known as melioidosis can kill within 12 hours if left untreated. The bacteria *Pseudomonas pseudomallei*, which causes melioidosis' pneumonia-like symptoms, is resistant to traditional antibiotics. Northern Territory Medical Officer Dr. Aileen Plant said the bacteria may have been flushed to the surface by rising water tables from recent rains. People contract the disease through cuts or abrasions.



Muddy Eruption



The Keireki volcano erupted with fountains of mud near the Azerbaijan capital of Baku following two years of inactivity. There are more than 200 mud volcanoes in Azerbaijan, nearly two-thirds of the world's total.

Record Drought



As California braces for an unprecedented fifth year of drought, state water officials made plans to impose a 300-gallon daily limit per household, without regard to the number of residents, and to provide farmers with only enough water to keep perennial plants, such as fruit trees, alive. Rainfall since Oct. 1 has averaged only 28 percent of normal statewide, apparently assuring another year of a drought that may virtually wipe out several types of fish and wildlife, state game officials warned.

Earthquakes



Two quakes shook parts of New Zealand's South Island, damaging the main highway between Westport and Nelson, and toppling chimneys. Spanish researchers measured a magnitude 7 quake near Deception Island, along the Antarctic Peninsula. The temblor generated a tsunami which submerged an area 30-40 yards inland on one beach. Earth movements were also felt in Mexico's Guerrero state, off northern Irian Jaya in eastern Indonesia, along Japan's eastern Honshu coast, in Tadzhikistan, and near Cleveland, Ohio.

Tropical Storm



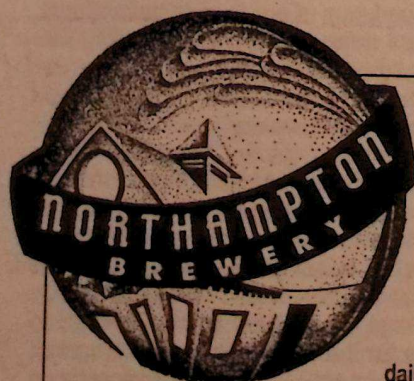
At the height of the tropical cyclone season in the central Indian Ocean, cyclone Bella passed east of the island of Mauritius with maximum sustained winds of 110 miles per hour, before losing force late in the week.

Croc Bite



Cuba's Prensa Latina reported the terrifying tale of Jose Escanell Perez, who bit into an attacking crocodile during a desperate attempt to free himself from the reptile's jaws. The agency said Escanell was caught in the croc's mouth while tending to his nets at a crocodile ranch in Las Tunas province, 420 miles east of Havana. "I shouted 'let go, you bastard,' but it didn't understand, so I bit it on the base of the tail to see if it would release me, but no way," Escanell said. Only when Escanell poked his fingers into the animal's eyes did it loosen its grip. After receiving 16 stitches for head and hand injuries, Escanell said, "I'm not afraid of the ferocity of those beasts. You've got to treat crocodiles with courage and love."

Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.



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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET


By Steve Newman

Earthquakes

 A devastating Himalayan temblor, and scores of terrifying aftershocks, may have killed more than 1,000 people in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Relief workers say the official death toll may have been exaggerated, especially in Afghanistan, but large-scale destruction of homes and other buildings was reported from the Soviet republics of Tadzhikistan and Uzbekistan to northern Pakistan. The region was plagued by several strong aftershocks, some of which unleashed avalanches that claimed 40 lives. Torrential rains and snow hampered relief efforts throughout the Himalayan region, and triggered massive floods in the days after the initial earthquake on Feb. 1. Doctors in Pakistan report that at least 32 people suffered heart attacks as the quake roared through the country—some thinking it was the impact of a U.S. nuclear bomb striking Iraq.


Earth movements were also felt in coastal Chile, the Mexican state of Chihuahua, northern Alaska, and on California's Big Sur coast.

Floods

 The worst flooding of the past century hit southeastern Iran, destroying 168 villages and leaving at least 50,000 homeless in Sistan-Baluchestan, one of the country's poorest provinces. The floods immediately followed the previous week's black, oily rains and thick smoke cloud caused by the burning of oil fields and facilities in Kuwait by occupying Iraqi forces.


Floods in seven Ecuadoran provinces killed 14 people and destroyed thousands of acres of crops.

War Heat

 The president of India's National Society for Air Pollution Control blamed the sudden increase of day and nighttime temperatures in Bombay to the outbreak of war in the Persian


Gulf, 1,300 miles away. The recent warming was attributed to "greenhouse-effect gasses" resulting from the enormous fuel combustion of missiles and burning oil fields, as well as to the supersonic flights of warplanes. "At no comparable time in recent world history have so many fossil fuels and rockets been burned as in the northern Gulf area during the past two weeks," said the society president P.R. Gharekhan.

Cold Wave

 A biting Siberian chill spread from the Soviet Union into central Europe, and finally to the British Isles by late in the week. As sub-freezing temperatures swept Czechoslovakia, a nationwide coal shortage forced officials to close some schools. British charities warned that hundreds of elderly people could die if the government didn't take immediate action to protect them from the most severe cold in four years. The freeze


in Romania caused domestic gas pressure to fall dramatically, leaving many unable to cook. In Greece, four people died as the bitter winds dropped temperatures to minus four degrees Fahrenheit in some spots, and hundreds of thousands of chickens froze to death on the island of Evia, northeast of Athens. The French Riviera received its first dusting of snow in five years.

Wildfires

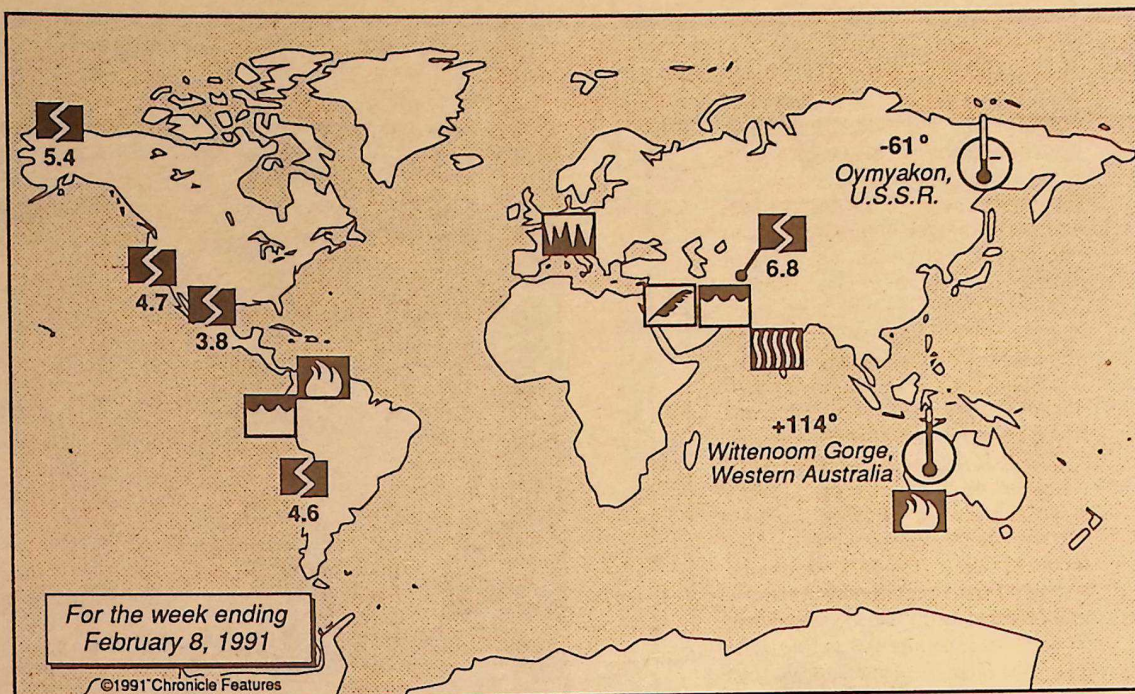
 A fire devoured 25,000 acres of unspoiled rain forests in Colombia's Macarena jungle region, about 450 miles south of Bogota. The fire, of unknown origin, raged out of control for several days.

Fires spawned by record summer heat swept parts of Western Australia state, threatening outlying suburbs of Perth and several other towns. The weather bureau said that Perth's high of 113 degrees was the hottest since record-keeping began in 1897.

Desert Sentinels

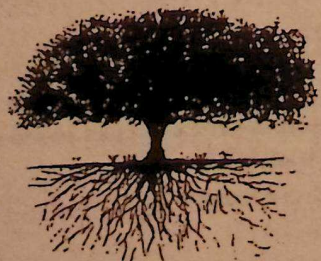
 News-pool correspondents discovered that U.S. soldiers are using chickens as first alerts against chemical weapon attacks. At one air base in northern Saudi Arabia, "There are chickens everywhere you turn along the front line, standing guard for the troops," according to Storer H. Rowley of the *Chicago Tribune* and Alexander G. Hiffins of the Associated Press. "Buford" is the command chicken at the air base, "Walter" guards the gate, and "Saddam" protects within the rows of desert-brown tents. "Runway" is the backup chicken, whose untimely death in a gas-attack would confirm the presence of lethal agents, and warn soldiers to leave their chemical gear on. Many on the base say they are eyeing the chickens, in hopes of a southern-style victory barbecue.

Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.



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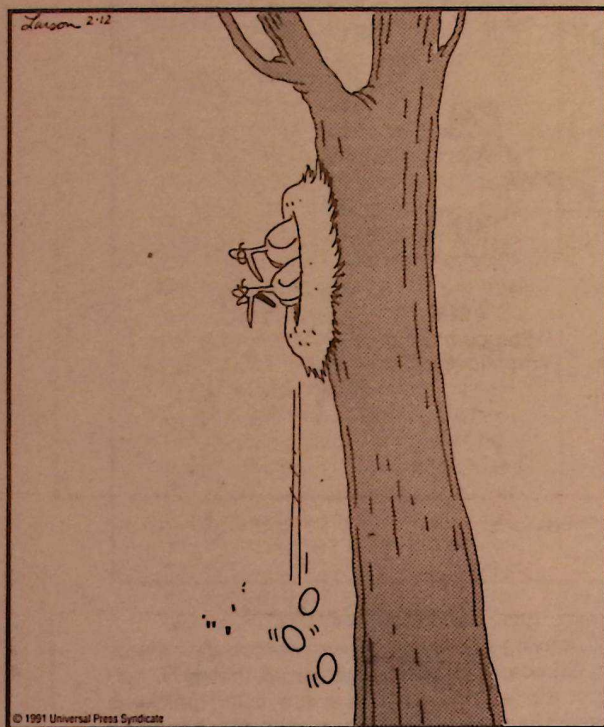
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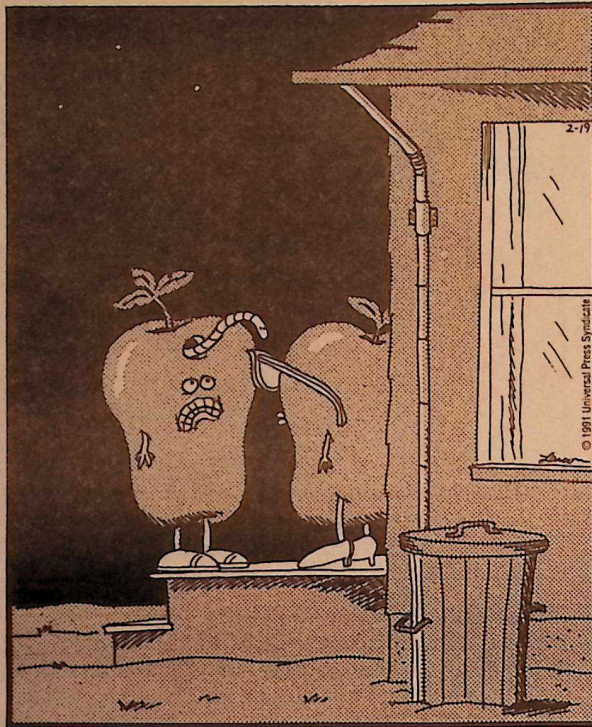
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THE FAR SIDE

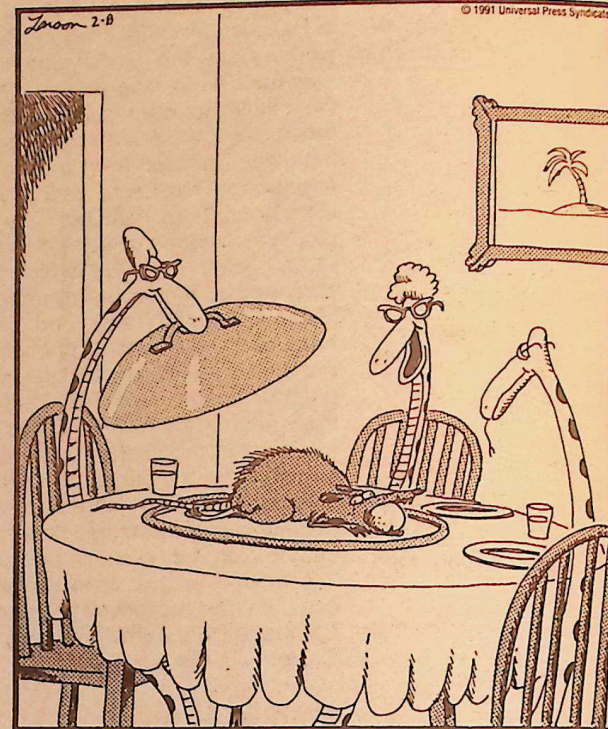
By GARY LARSON



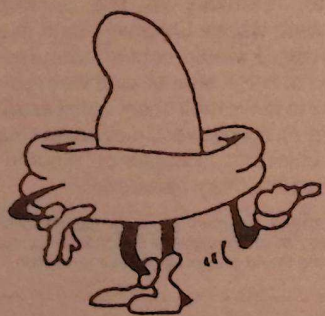
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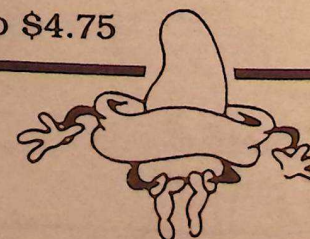
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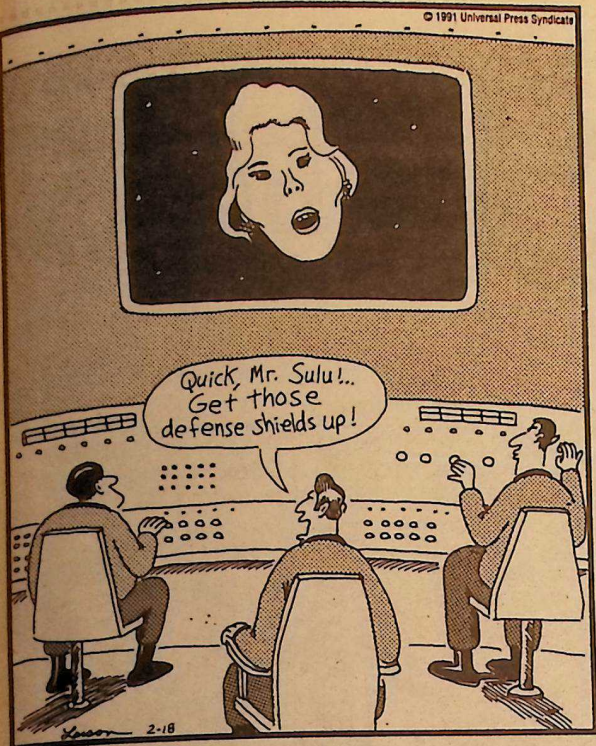
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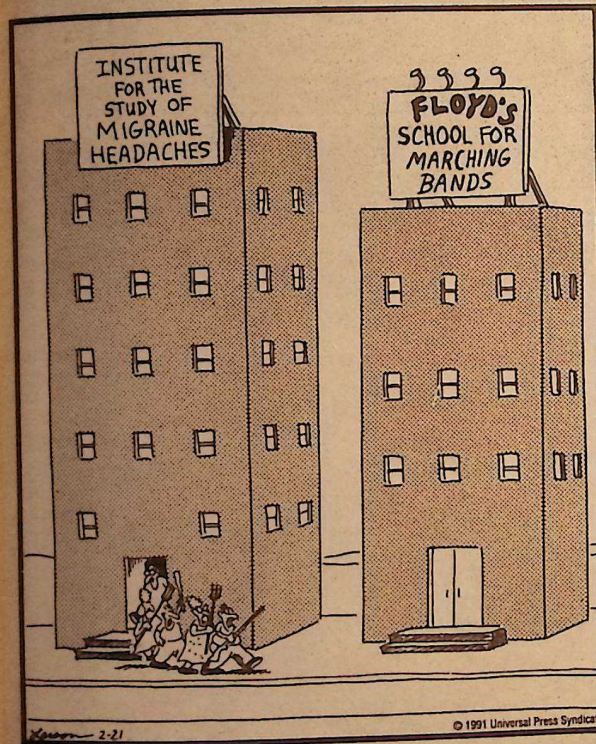
The crew of the Starship Enterprise encounters the floating head of Zsa Zsa Gabor.



In the days before feathers



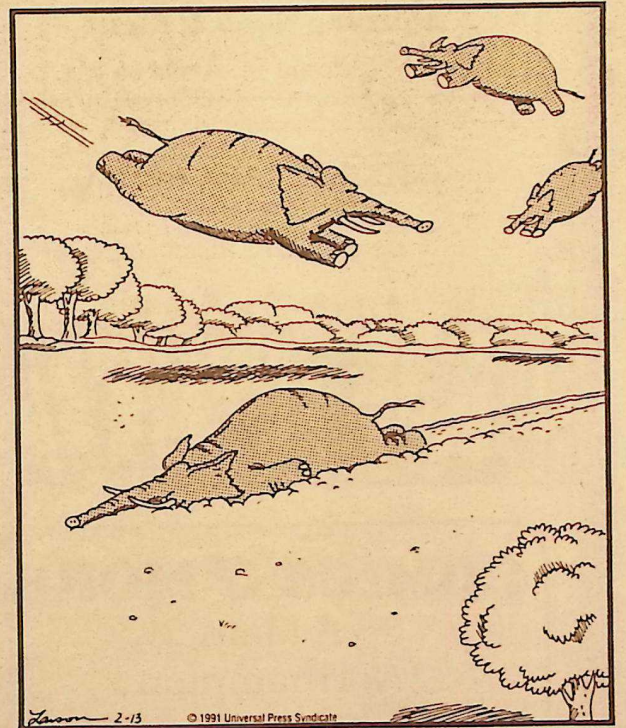
Famous patrons of Chez Rotting Carcass



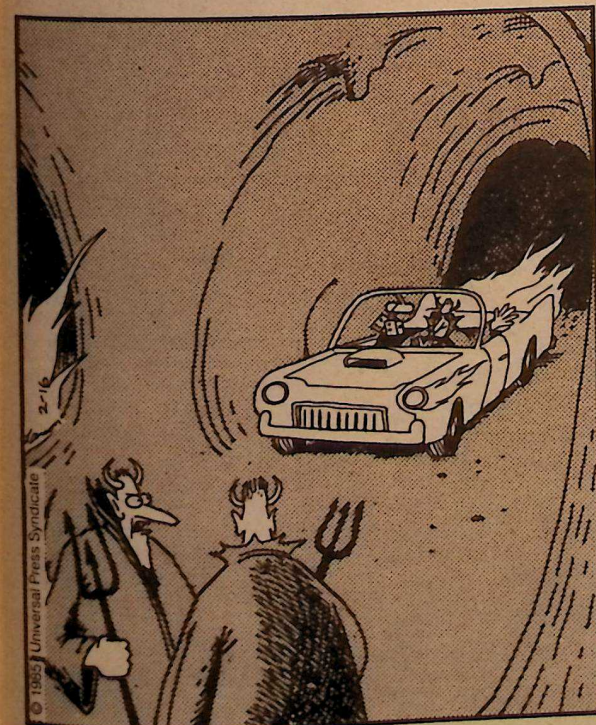
The dam bursts



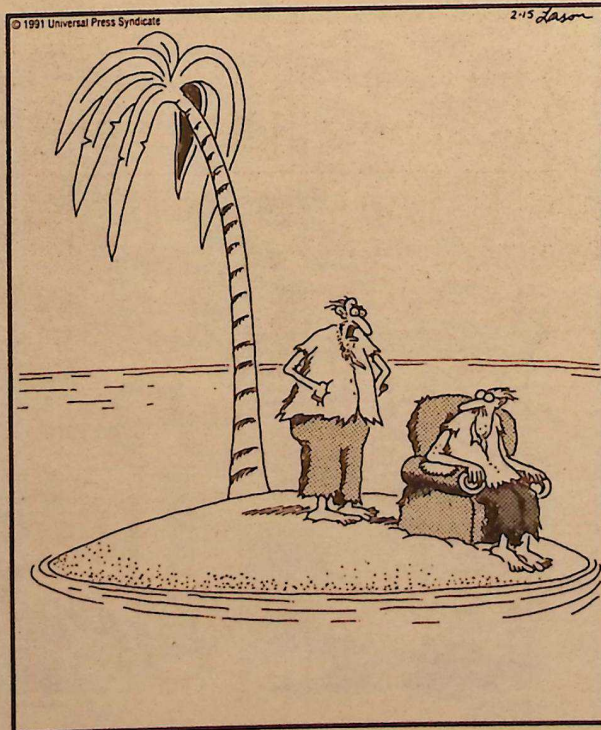
"Hey, hey, hey! Are you folks nuts? I'm telling you, this is the car for you!"



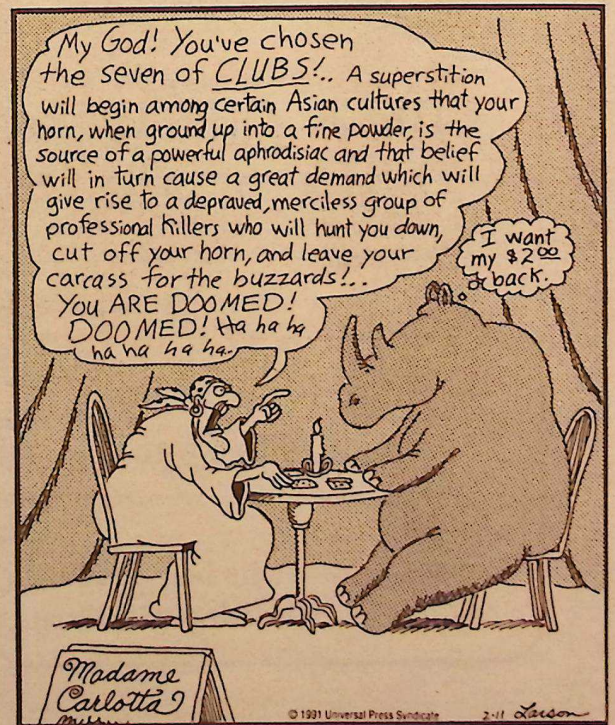
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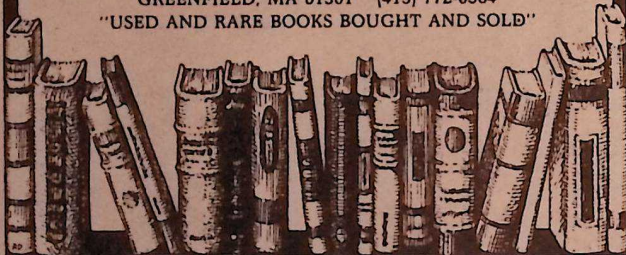
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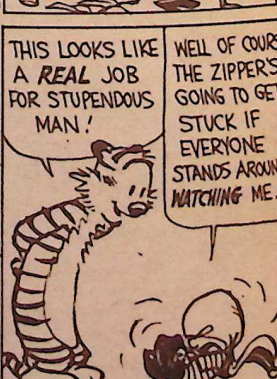
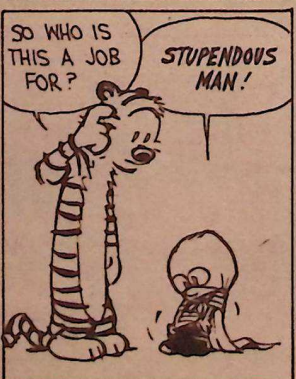
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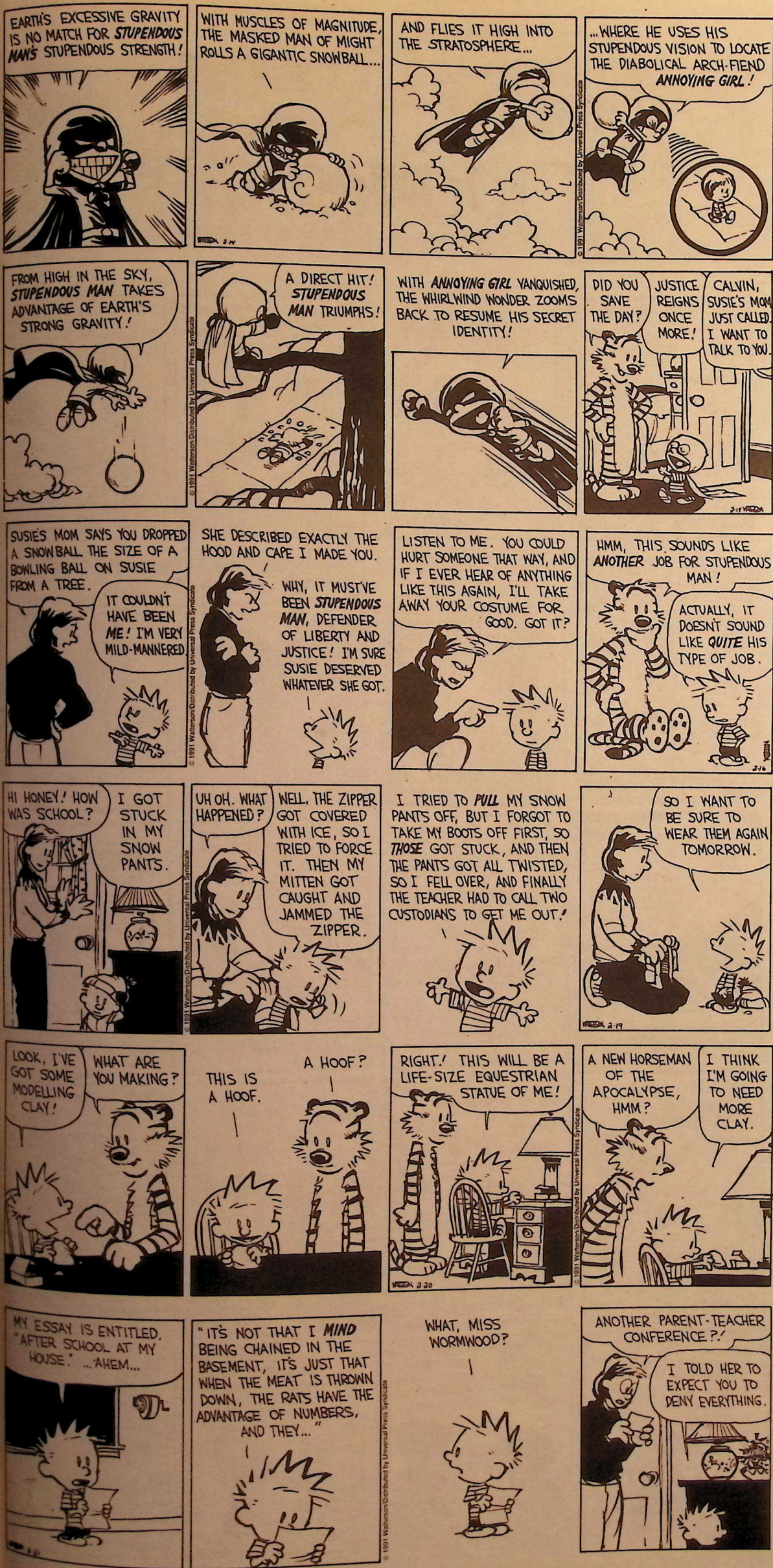
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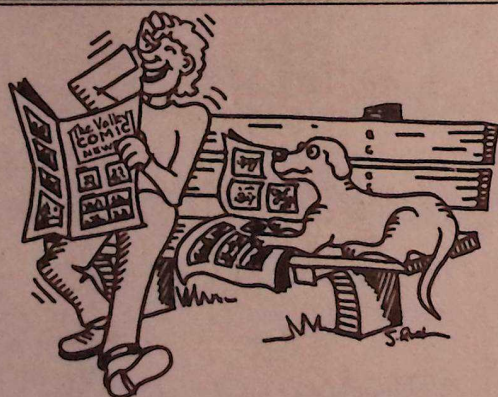


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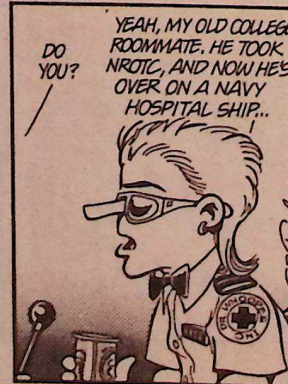
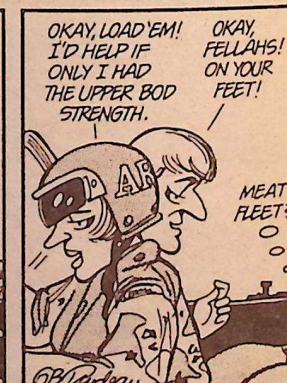
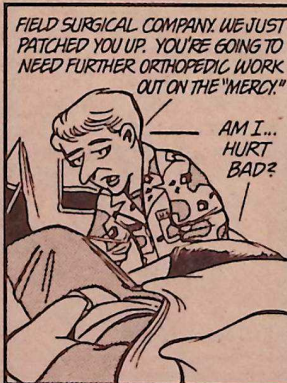
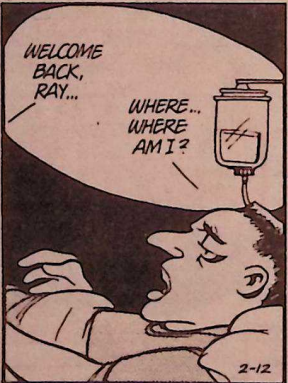
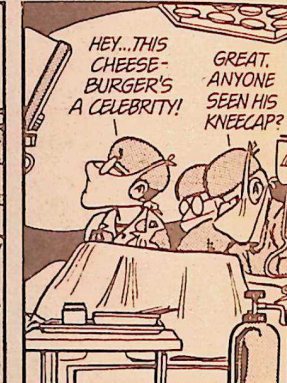
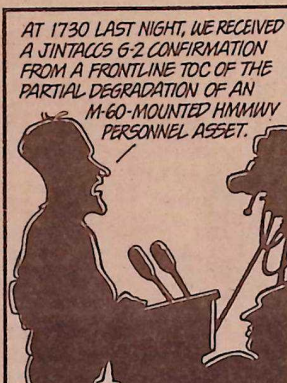
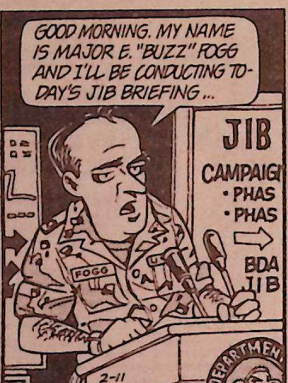
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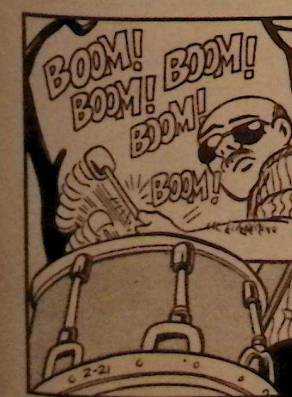
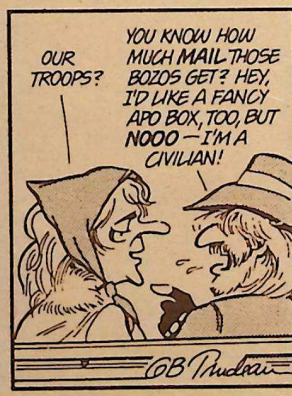
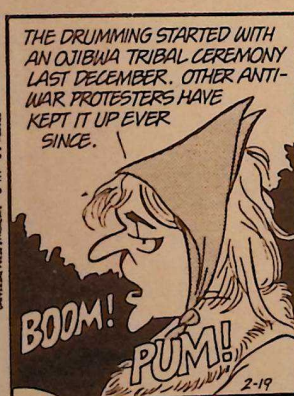
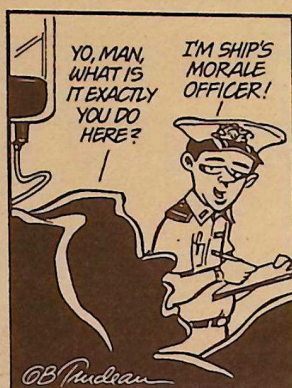
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